Dumlao affidavit 'clincher' in Dacer case

STORY ON PAGE A2

Gates still richest; Forbes lists 3 Pinoys

NEW YORK—Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates is still the richest man on the planet, according to the latest ranking by Forbes magazine, but value investing guru Warren Buffett has slipped past the software giant's other co-founder for second place.

The bursting of the Internet bubble knocked a number of billionaires down a peg or two, or

GATES/ A14

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
SATURDAY, JUNE 23, 2001 . ★★ 72 PAGES 7 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 195 ₱15

Gov't, Moro rebs agree to ceasefire

By Christine Avendaño

IT'S one down for the battle-weary Macapagal administration.

The government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) last night were to sign a ceasefire agreement in Tripoli, Libya, where they are holding peace talks to end the separatist

GOV'T/ A14

3 more hostages freed

Gov't steps back as victims' kin negotiate with Abu Sayyaf bandits

AN ALLEGED intermediary yesterday said the Abu Sayyaf had freed three Filipino hostages who should make their way to safety within the next 48 hours, but government officials said they could not confirm this.

The intermediary, who described himself as "an independent negotiator," told Reuters that he had "just spoken with (Abu Sayyaf spokesperson) Abu Sabaya" in Basilan.

"He has released three of the Filipino hostages . . . but it will take about two days for them to come down," Reuters quoted the intermediary as saying.

The intermediary, whom Reuters described as having "proven reliable in the past," did not identify the three Filipinos.

But a source privy to the negotiations identified one as Luis Bautista III, who was among those kidnapped from the Dos Palmas Resort in Palawan on May 27.The other two, said the Reuters source, were among those abducted from Lamitan town in Basilan on June 2.

Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes said he could not confirm the report.

"We are not privy to those negotiations," he was quoted as telling reporters. "The policy of the government remains the same—we relentlessly pursue the Abu Sayyaf, we do not negotiate with terrorists, and we pay no ransom to terrorists."

In Zamboanga City, Col. Danilo Servando, spokesperson of the Armed Forces' Southern Command, told the INQUIRER of reports that emissaries of the Abu Sayyaf and go-betweens of the hostages' families were arranging negotiations.

He refused to name names, and said the military would not stop or even discourage the supposed negotiators despite the government's strict no-ransom policy.

"As we have said, another group has been doing the negotiations for the release of the hostages," Servando said. "If ever (there are) negotiations, back-channeling, *hindi na namin pinapakialaman yon* (we do not meddle anymore)."

3 MORE/ A14

WHERE childhood has gone (above): To a hammock to sit out the war in Isabela, the capital of Basilan, where a full-scale military operation is ongoing against the Abu Sayyaf bandits. The fruit of peace (below) is the reunited James Liong family who visits with President Macapagal on Friday. Mother Maridol Liong (beside the President) and her daughter Alexa (on her lap) were kidnapped last March by the MILF and released before peace talks began in Tripoli.

DENNIS SABANGAN/MALACAÑANG PHOTO

Kidnap syndicate busted

By Dave M. Veridiano, Armand N. Nocum, Christine Avendaño and Carlito Pablo

ACCUSED of bungling their job and causing President Macapagal-Arroyo to apologize to a kidnap victim's family after feeding her with inaccurate information, police officials announced yesterday that they had neutralized a kidnap-for-ransom gang that abducted four people, including Singaporean and Hong Kong nationals.

Interior Secretary Joey Lina said the syndicate was finally busted with the arrest of 12 of its 16 members during a series of police operations in Bulacan, Nueva Ecija and Metro Manila.

Sen. Franklin Drilon noted that Ms Macapagal's blunder would not have happened if the intelligence community had done its job.

Lina presented to the media the 12 suspects and identified their alleged leader as Ariel Rodriguez, alias Joan, an original member of the notorious Esting KFR gang of Central Luzon.

Lina's announcement came two days after the President apologized to Mary Grace Rosagas and her Chinese-Filipino family for insinuating that her abduction on Monday was staged to embarrass the government.

Rosagas, her driver and a bodyguard were released 17 hours after her family reportedly paid the kidnapers P10 million in ransom.

Lina had earlier claimed that the leader of the kidnap gang was a person from the opposition who had links to the previous administration.

Drilon yesterday asked the President to replace her intelligence officials, who fed her inaccurate information.

Drilon said the President owed it to the people to have the most competent men around her.

"This is part of governance. She must have competent people around her," he told the INQUIRER.

Senator-elect Panfilo Lacson had voiced suspicions that Senior Supt. Reynaldo Berroya, intelligence

KIDNAP/ A14

Gloria: Stop new 'Edsa Tres' plot

By Juliet L. Javellana

A REPEAT of the so-called "Edsa Tres" and the May 1 siege of Malacañang is being planned in time for Joseph Estrada's arraignment next week, President Macapagal-Arroyo announced yesterday.

The President spoke of the "unrest being planned for the arraignment" of her disgraced predecessor in a speech during the 13th anniversary celebration of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program at Malacañang's Ceremonial Hall.

She did not say if the political opposition and persons allied with Estrada were the same ones supposedly planning a reprise of the six-day loyalist rallies at Edsa that culminated in the violent attack on the Palace.

But her spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said the groups behind the supposed plan included the Estrada allies and supporters responsible for the May 1 siege.

"We believe the main part of it is (the same group)," Tiglao said at a news briefing held after the President's 2 p.m. command conference with military and police officials.

At the same briefing, Armed Forces spokesperson Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan said Joint Task Force Libra, the anti-coup unit set up in April, was ready to foil the supposed destabili-

GLORIA/ A13

PNP wants 'hospital trial' for Estradas

By Martin P. Marfil

WARNING of another possible "state of rebellion," the Philippine National Police yesterday petitioned the Sandiganbayan to hold Joseph Estrada's upcoming plunder trial at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center auditorium instead of in court.

PNP officials asked the court's third division to allow the "hospital trial" for security reasons amid a "preponderance" of intelligence reports of alleged destabilization plots against the government by both pro- and anti-Estrada forces.

"The trial is the centerpiece" of these threats against the government, PNP Community Relations chief Deputy Director Thompson Lantion said in an interview.

He did not specify what groups were behind the alleged plots, but emphasized the urgency of the request for Estrada's arraignment and trial to be held at the 500-seat hospital auditorium in Quezon City.

"This concerns national security. This should be the overriding consideration" of the court, Lantion told reporters.

"We have just experienced the May 1st incident and we would like to avoid that happening again as much as possible," he said, referring to the attack on Malacañang by Estrada supporters that led President Macapagal-Arroyo to declare a state of rebellion in Metro Manila.

PNP legal officer Senior Supt. Doroteo Reyes told the court that "intelligence is a daily affair; we can never tell if this will ripen into another state of rebellion."

The PNP first learned of the threat based on a series of events that started last month, and it has since kept the Sandiganbayan updated, according to Lantion, who refused to elaborate.

Estrada lawyer Jose Flaminiano opposed the move to hold a hospital trial, arguing that no existing law authorizes the holding of a criminal trial outside court premises.

NOW/ A3

Abu Sayyaf goes hi-tech

By Alexander M. Young
PDI Mindanao Bureau

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Message received: "P5M 4 1 hostge.drp $ 2nyt @ hotl loby—ASG."

Just like the supporters of Edsa II, the Abu Sayyaf bandits have gone hi-tech. They have found lucrative use of cellular phones and the Internet.

By simply punching a keypad, Abu Sayyaf emissaries could easily bid the price tag of each hostage, with the use of text messaging and e-mail.

Emissaries of the Abu Sayyaf bandits in Basilan no longer need to set covert rendezvous, or personally meet with the go-betweens of the relatives of hostages being held in the hinterlands of Basilan as they utilize other means of doing their clandestine negotiations, according to Southern Command spokesperson Col. Danilo Servando.

"They're hi-tech. This is how contacts are made between supposed negotiators," Servando said.

Even the transfer of money could be done the electronic way.

Isn't Servando acknowledging that ransom had indeed been paid by the released hostages?

But he reminded the "go-betweeners" that the government is strict about its "no-ransom" policy. But it would appear that if the hostages are safely re-

ABU SAYYAF/ A14

AKO? FOR PRESIDENT?

Will Loren hype lead to Palace?

By Armand N. Nocum

A HIGH profile does not a future presidential candidate make.

Despite swirling rumors, Sen. Loren Legarda insists that she is not casting a moist eye on the presidency in 2004.

"There is no moist eye, my eyes don't get moist. For me, it's either I want it or I don't," she told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview when asked to react to reports that she seemed to be interested in higher office.

According to her, dreams of becoming the country's third woman president are "not within my radar of interest."

The appearance of a slew of TV commercials and newspaper ads featuring Legarda has recently sparked talk that the

WILL/ A14

BAKA TOTOO ANG HINALA, AH..

DACER KIDNAP-MURDER

Dumlao affidavit 'final clincher'

By Jerome Aning

NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation Director Reynaldo Wycoco yesterday said the affidavit of Supt. Glenn Dumlao tending to implicate jailed ex-president Joseph Estrada and senator-elect Panfilo "Ping" Lacson was the "final clincher" in the seven-month-old Dacer kidnapping with murder case.

Wycoco said that depending on the strength of Dumlao's evidence, the justice department may finally be able to start the preliminary investigation of Dumlao and other suspects in the abduction and murder of publicist Salvador "Bubby" Dacer and his driver, Emmanuel Corbito.

But Wycoco said he believed Dumlao's affidavit was likely to present strong evidence as it was done in Dumlao's own handwriting, and that there was "no coercion or compulsion" involved.

Dumlao said in the affidavit he submitted to the justice department on June 14 that Estrada and Lacson may have known of the defunct Presidential Organized Crime Task Force's "special operation" that led to Dacer's kidnapping and murder.

Wycoco said Lacson, the then PAOCTF chief, has a "lot of explaining to do" now that Dumlao has linked the senator-elect and his trusted lieutenants, Senior Supts. Michael Ray Aquino and Cesar Mancao, to the case.

He said Dumlao's admission only proves "how sound" the NBI's initial theories were on who could have masterminded the kidnapping and murder of Dacer and Corbito.

"We have no reason to doubt the things he (Dumlao) wrote," Wycoco told reporters in an ambush interview. "This validated what the Filipino people thought about the case from the very beginning."

At the justice department, Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said he has yet to read Dumlao's affidavit, although he was alerted about its contents during a meeting in Malacañang late Thursday.

Perez said government prosecutors would meet next week to assess the contents of the affidavit.

Only then will they decide if a preliminary investigation was merited and whether Estrada and Lacson would be called in for questioning.

In a nine-page sworn statement, Dumlao claimed that he overheard a conversation between Lacson's two proteges, Aquino and Mancao, about a "special operation" involving Dacer.

Dumlao, then the deputy chief for operations of the defunct PAOCTF-Luzon, said he was first assigned to conduct a surveillance of Dacer in January 1999 by Aquino.

Dumlao said he overheard Aquino tell Mancao, who was Dumlao's immediate superior, that the special project on Dacer had been approved by Lacson, whom he referred to as "71," and Malacañang.

Dumlao said Mancao asked about the nature of the special operation assigned to him.

Aquino replied it involved "Mr. Dacer."

"That has been cleared with Malacañang, it was already discussed," Dumlao quoted Aquino as saying in Filipino.

Dumlao alleged that the initial instruction given by Aquino was to go to Dacer's office at the Manila Hotel, take whatever documents he could find and monitor Dacer's visitors.

Dumlao said he was subsequently ordered to set fire to, or bomb if necessary, Dacer's office, to destroy all the documents and computers there.

Dumlao said the special operation was temporarily halted when he was assigned to handle other cases. But he said Aquino ordered him to revive the case in October 2000.

"If the evidence being offered by Glenn Dumlao is strong enough, then the corresponding investigation shall proceed against (those he named)," Perez said in an ambush interview.

"If, on the other hand, the affidavit is hearsay, then we may not even conduct a preliminary investigation with respect to the other persons pointed out," he added.

If, after assessing Dumlao's evidence, the department finds it insufficient, Estrada and Lacson will not be included in the preliminary investigation, Perez said.

"I don't want to go on a wild goose chase. If there is no sufficient evidence, then why are we going to conduct an investigation? But if there is a direct link, then we will," he said.

Perez said government prosecutors would also study whether Dumlao could qualify as a state witness once it is decided that his affidavit merits a preliminary investigation.

Wycoco was to meet yesterday with national police chief Leandro Mendoza to review Dumlao's participation in the murder of Dacer and Corbito. *With a report from Cathy Yamsuan*

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NEWSBRIEFS

'Emong' slows down

TROPICAL Storm "Emong" slowed down slightly yesterday afternoon after belting northern Luzon with torrential rain and wind gusts of up to 135 kilometers per hour. At 4 p.m. yesterday, the center of the tropical storm was spotted 90 km south southeast of Basco, Batanes, or 160 km north northeast of Aparri, Cagayan. It had strongest sustained winds of 105 kph near the center and gustiness of up to 135 kph. The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration forecasted the storm to be 350 km northwest of Basco, Batanes, by this afternoon. Storm signal no. 3 remains hoisted over northern Cagayan and the Calayan and Batanes group of islands. Signal no. 2 is in effect over the rest of Cagayan, northern Isabela, Kalinga Apayao and Ilocos Norte. Storm signal no. 1 is in effect over northern Aurora and the rest of northern Luzon. "Emong" will enhance the southwest monsoon and also bring rains to the rest of Luzon and the Visayas, particularly its western portion. *Andrea Trinidad-Echavez*

Nur hits 'bogus group'

FORMER Moro National Liberation Front chair Nur Misuari branded as a "bogus group" the 15-man executive committee, which assumed the MNLF leadership. "That is a bogus group because they have already been rejected by the people," Misuari said Thursday after the launching of "FVR Through the Years Part II," the second in a series of books about former President Fidel V. Ramos. Misuari was reacting to reports that the Libyan government had rejected his application for a visa so that he could represent the MNLF as observer in the peace talks between the Philippines and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front. MNLF foreign affairs commission chief Dr. Farouk Hussein said this was an indication that Libya, an influential member of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC), has recognized the changes in the MNLF leadership. "How can I be denied a visa when I did not even apply for one. I did not have any plans to go to Libya," Misuari said. *Rocky Nazareno*

Benipayo to Sweden

COMMISSION on Elections chair Alfredo Benipayo left for Stockholm, Sweden, last night to attend an international conference on electoral management and won't be back until July 3, leaving behind an incomplete senatorial and party-list tally and a number of unresolved electoral petitions. But Benipayo, in a news conference held on the eve of his departure, said the remaining commissioners would be able to come up with a resolution on the final tally for the 13 winning senators even in his absence. The National Board of Canvassers had finished the canvass of 102 provincial and city certificates of canvass but has yet to decide on the petitions filed by Puwersa ng Masa lawyer Rufus Rodriguez questioning 146,000 votes for Sen. Ralph Recto in three Mindanao provinces and asking for the deduction of 30,000 from Recto's total in Zamboanga del Norte. Benipayo said the NBOC would have to resolve the petitions and come up with the final tally before June 30, since the 13 newly proclaimed senators would have to assume office the next day. "I don't think my vote (on these petitions) will really matter," Benipayo said. "It (final tally) will depend on the figures." He will be in Stockholm for the Democracy Forum 2001 and the International IDEA 6th Conference on Electoral Management Bodies. *Gerald G. Lacuarta*

OFWs score in Dubai

THE UNITED Arab Emirates has started requiring employers to put up a bank guarantee amounting to US$820 for every newly hired foreign employee, including overseas Filipino workers, the Philippine Overseas Labor Office in Dubai reported yesterday. Angeles Wong-Garcia said the guarantee requirement, amounting to 3,000 in UAE currency, was aimed to quickly resolve labor disputes involving non-payment of wages and the closure of firms where expatriate partners flee the country leaving behind unsettled financial obligations to their workers. Garcia said a bank guarantee was now required under any of the following conditions: when a new employment permit has been issued by the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs; when a change of sponsorship is effected and duly approved by the ministry; and when a renewal of the workers' labor card is applied for. Garcia said the new regulation was expected to benefit some 43,045 OFWs working in the UAE. *Gerald G. Lacuarta*

Sanares, 86

AGUSTINA del Rosario Sanares died on June 16. She was 86. Her body lies at her residence at No. 550 Manggahan Subdivision, Binakayan, Kawit, Cavite. Interment will be held on Sunday at the Imus Public Cemetery after the 1 p.m. Mass at the Imus Cathedral.

8,966 cast 25,597 votes for party list in Lanao town

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

HOW COULD 25,597 votes have been cast for party-list groups in a town that had only 8,966 voters? It could happen, if the town was Saguiaran in Lanao del Sur.

Leading party-list group Bayan Muna, which has been assured of three House seats at the latest count, said the statistically impossible high number of voters in the party-list election in Saguiaran was also noted in the municipality of Maging.

Neri Javier Colmenares, Bayan Muna counsel, said a total of 10,007 votes was cast in the party-list elections in Maging where there are only 6,899 registered voters. A voter may only write in one party-list group on the ballot.

"We asked the Board of Canvassers to exclude the COCs (certificates of canvass) from the two municipalities if it would not be feasible to correct the tabulation of votes anymore," Colmenares said.

"This is the least that can be done to rectify this grave mistake," he said.

Colmenares noted that the top five party-list groups alone in Saguiaran received a total of 16,441 votes, which was already twice the number of registered voters. These were the party-list groups Alab, Aklat, PDSP, LDP and Bagay-OFW.

It was also in Lanao del Sur—whose COCs were the last to be canvassed—that the Puwersa ng Masa discovered the alleged padding of votes for the People Power Coalition in at least nine towns and in Marawi City.

The PnM has filed a petition asking the National Board of Canvassers to exclude or correct the COCs from those municipalities and city.

Bayan Muna had earlier asked the Comelec *en banc*, sitting as the National Board of Canvassers, to set aside the canvassing of votes from Maguindanao because of alleged *dagdag-bawas* (vote-padding and shaving) in some towns and the "statistically impossible" high turnout of voters in others.

The Supreme Court had earlier ordered the Comelec not to proclaim any winners in the party-list elections pending the resolution of disqualification cases filed by Bayan Muna and Akbayan against MAD and 16 other party-list groups.

Nikki's ma dies; 70

COSETENG

FORMER Philippine Ambassador to Mexico Alicia Marquez-Coseteng, mother of former senator Anna Dominique "Nikki" Coseteng, died yesterday at the age of 70.

The Department of Foreign Affairs said Coseteng passed away at 11 a.m. at the National Kidney Institute in Quezon City due to complications arising from breast cancer.

Coseteng had been appointed to the Mexico post by former President Joseph Estrada in January 2000.

Her appointment caused a stir when her predecessor, Ambassador Delia Menez-Rosal, refused to give up the post since she had not completed her three-year term.

Menez-Rosal was eventually transferred to the Philippine consular office in Agana, Guam.

Being a political appointee, Coseteng was recalled when President Macapagal-Arroyo assumed office in January. She returned to the country on April 26, 2001.

Coseteng was born on April 1, 1931 in Iloilo City. She obtained a degree in English at the University of the Philippines, where she started her professorial career in 1958. She later obtained master's degrees in English and Communications at Cornell and Stanford universities, respectively.

Coseteng was chair of the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization's mass communication committee from 1965 to 1982.

She also wrote an art column for The Manila Chronicle and was a staff writer for the Weekly Graphic Magazine from 1965 to 1966.

She is survived by three daughters and two sons. Her husband was the late industrialist and sportsman Emerson Coseteng. *Rocky Nazareno*

Gloria vows to push land reform program to honor her father

By Juliet L. Javellana

IN MEMORY of her late father, President Macapagal-Arroyo said she would push for agrarian reform even to the extent of depriving her children of their inheritance.

At the 13th anniversary celebration of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program in Malacañang, Ms Macapagal recalled how her father, former President Diosdado Macapagal, lost his reelection bid because he had pushed for the enactment of the agrarian reform law which abolished tenancy.

She said her father, born of a poor farming family in Pampanga, offended his campaign donors who were mostly Pampanga landlords when he ardently pushed for the law's passage.

She said her father had to call eight special sessions of Congress before agrarian reform became part of the law of the land.

The President said she learned the story of her father's travails with the landmark law not from him but from his assistant, now Supreme Court Justice Jose Melo.

"Indeed it happened. He got his land reform but not his reelection," Ms Macapagal said.

"But maybe the Lord was good to him because maybe my becoming President was like his reelection," she added, to the applause of the crowd of farmer-beneficiaries and agrarian reform officials led by Secretary Hernani Braganza.

Ms Macapagal vowed: "And if my father as President was able to push for land reform, then in his memory . . . I must also push for agrarian reform."

The President said one million hectares of private agricultural lands and another one million hectares of public lands remain up for distribution under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law.

She said much of the criticism against CARP was its failure to be completed within its original 10-year time frame.

The President said she has asked DAR officials to set a "realistic" target within which to distribute 200,000 hectares of private and public agricultural lands each year for the next three years.

"And on a personal note, what clearer demonstration of my family's commitment can there be than my husband and my brother-in-law sacrificing their inheritance which had been in their family for generations to agrarian reform," she said.

During the anniversary celebration, First Gentleman Mike Arroyo and his brother, Ignacio, made a symbolic turnover of more than 200 hectares of their agricultural property in Negros Occidental under the CARP VOS (voluntary offer to s ell) program.

"One of my children is crying because of the lost inheritance," the President remarked.

"But never mind, we have to make a sacrifice, we have to show leadership by example. Each of us has to sacrifice because times are hard, they are even perilous," she added.

Int'l court to take up 'Sabah row'

THE HAGUE—The International Court of Justice (ICJ) will start public hearings here on Monday to determine if the Philippines can intervene in a territorial dispute between neighbors Malaysia and Indonesia.

Malaysia and Indonesia both claim sovereignty over the islands of Pulau Ligitan and Pulau Sipidan, situated off the coast of Sabah, on the island of Borneo.

The countries have agreed to allow the ICJ to decide who owns the Celebes Sea islands.

Malaysia is expected to cite its ownership of Sabah as the basis for its claim to the islands.

But the Philippines also lays claim to Sabah on the grounds that it was ruled by the Sulu sultanate in the 15th century.

The authorities in Manila believe a decision by the international court might affect the Philippines claim to Sabah, which is why they are seeking to intervene in the case.

The Sabah question has been an irritant in ties between Manila and Kuala Lumpur ever since former Philippine president Diosdado Macapagal revived a claim to the state when it became independent and joined Malaysia in 1963.

The Philippines has never formally renounced its claim to Sabah, although officials in Manila have said they will not allow the dispute to disrupt bilateral relations.

Attempts by previous Philippine administrations to drop the Sabah claim have been shot down by the Senate and Kuala Lumpur-Manila relations have been broken off twice because of the row. *AFP*

Kidnappings scare away investors

2 top-level trade missions from Singapore, Taiwan cancelled

BY GIL CABACUNGAN

SPOOKED by the string of brazen kidnappings in Metro Manila in recent weeks, two separate high-level business missions from Singapore and Taiwan have cancelled their scheduled visits to the country.

The cancellations are expected to deal a big blow to government efforts to attract foreign investors, who have been avoiding the Philippines since the Estrada administration.

The Makati Business Club yesterday confirmed that the visit of top Singapore CEOs scheduled to begin on June 27 has been "postponed" and rescheduled to the third quarter of this year.

Even though the MBC, the event secretariat, claimed the visit was cancelled due to a "conflict" in the participants' schedules, a ranking government source said the Singaporean businessmen were extremely worried about security in the Philippines.

Singapore's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, through its Manila Embassy, had registered serious concerns over the safety of Singaporeans here following the kidnapping of a number of their nationals in the country.

Guillermo Luchangco, chairman of the Philippine-Singaporean Business Council, did not return the INQUIRER's calls.

MBC executive director Guillermo Luz said the Macapagal administration should take these events as a "strong signal to address the situation immediately and decisively."

Luz said the cancellations were an "understandable reaction" of businessmen. He remained optimistic, however, that the Singaporean and Taiwanese businessmen would regain their confidence in the Philippines in view of their long-term relationship with each other.

A top-level mission from Taiwan set to visit the Philippines on July 11-13 has also been scuttled after organizers could not generate enough interest from Taiwanese businessmen who are reportedly similarly jittery about the security issue.

In a television interview, Trade Secretary Manuel "Mar" Roxas II admitted that "recent incidents have affected their outlook on the Philippines."

Roxas said it was natural for the Taiwanese businessmen to express their concerns about the country given the newspaper headlines. He said he was planning to invite Taiwanese media persons to the country to "see that life remains normal here."

Roxas said he has met with billionaire Jeffrey Koo, president of the Taiwan-Philippine Business Council, to assure him that "notwithstanding the isolated incidents, 99 percent of the citizenry can still conduct business safely and cooperatively in the Philippines."

Roxas said the Joint Economic Council meeting with his Taiwanese counterpart would go on as scheduled on July 11-13, despite the cancellation of the Taiwanese business mission.

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Investments in South at standstill, say traders

INVESTMENTS in Mindanao are at a standstill after Abu Sayyaf bandits kidnapped up to 26 US and Filipino hostages nearly a month ago, an industry group said yesterday.

The crisis has created a "perception problem" that resource-rich Mindanao was plagued by the Abu Sayyaf, the Mindanao Business Council said.

Council spokeswoman Joji Ilagan noted the local economy has not yet recovered from the effects of a similar Abu Sayyaf kidnapping last year.

In the latest incident, the bandits have been holding the hostages on the island province of Basilan, where 11 have been rescued or freed after alleged ransom payments and two others were killed.

The Abu Sayyaf also abducted four hospital staff and 15 plantation workers in Basilan.

"It would take a long time for us (to recover). You also have to understand that we haven't even fully recovered from the crisis of the past and now there is another crisis hanging on Mindanao's economy," Ilagan told ABS-CBN television.

"The problem is perception. People think when you talk of Abu Sayyaf, the entire Mindanao is affected." Mindanao and nearby islands comprise the southern third of the archipelago.

While many parts of Mindanao are peaceful, it has become a "hardsell to convince investors, even domestic investors, to come to Mindanao," she said.

Ilagan said the council has been trying to convince the rest of the Philippines and neighboring countries that other cities in the south are safe despite travel warnings being issued by the US and British governments.

"Our only saving grace today is our exports, and we just hope that we can meet our targets so that regional economy will at least continue to survive for the time being," Ilagan lamented. *AFP*

Now, PNP wants 'hospital trial'

(From page 1)

Lantion, however, told reporters that "if it's against the law . . . then (the court) should (find) a way, bend this law, in order that our motion should be given preference for reasons of national security."

But the anti-graft court's third division, headed by Justice Anacleto Badoy Jr., merely took note of the request, saying that the justices would make the decision in due time.

Reyes told the court that the police force's resources were being sapped by security preparations for the approaching trial and that securing the trial at the Sandiganbayan would involve at least 3,000 men.

The request is expected to affect the scheduling of both Estrada's arraignment on June 27 and a bail hearing reset for Tuesday.

The former President faces charges of plunder, perjury and illegal use of alias.

Lantion said that the PNP would also ask the Sandiganbayan's first division, which is trying the perjury case, for a transfer of trial venue.

"We'd like to maintain . . . order and public safety. That's the bottom line of this and that would be for all parties concerned, for the benefit not only of the former President and his followers, but for all the people of this country," Lantion said.

Perjury still on

The first division, for its part, denied for lack of merit a defense motion to quash Estrada's perjury case.

The first division, chaired by Presiding Justice Francis Garchitorena, rejected the defense's argument that the case was related to the separate plunder case filed before the third division and would thus violate Estrada's right "against double jeopardy."

"Untruthfulness in the statement of assets and liabilities is not a necessary element for acquiring ill-gotten wealth. It is at beast a means of hiding—not amassing—ill-gotten wealth which makes it a separate offense and not a component or element of plunder," the court said in a 12-page resolution.

In relation to the plunder case, witnesses and Equitable PCIBank executives Clarissa Ocampo and Manuel Curato filed a manifestation asking the third division to allow them to skip next week's bail hearing.

The two cited "security risks" as basis for the request but added that they would appear at the trial proper.

JV: Unchristian

The court also tackled several motions filed by the Estrada defense team, including one in which Jinggoy Estrada asked the court for additional time to "wind up his affairs" as outgoing San Juan mayor.

The motion was made a day earlier, before the justices punished the younger Estrada for "flagrant violations" of his five-day detention leave and canceled his privilege of returning home at night.

Jinggoy's half-brother and successor, San Juan Mayor-elect Joseph Victor "JV" Ejercito, called the court's decision "unchristian and inhumane."

Ejercito said the order punishing Jinggoy for making unauthorized visits to his grandmother and to a monument of Jose Rizal showed the "vindictiveness" of the Macapagal administration.

Estrada, who vowed on Tuesday to follow his release order "to the letter," will be escorted back to the Veterans Memorial Medical Center (VMMC) at 5 p.m. each day until Saturday.

The mayor-elect pointed out that their paternal grandmother's house was just some 50 meters away from the municipal hall and walking distance from Jinggoy's residence.

"Just like our grandmother's place, the monument of Dr. Rizal in San Juan was just (a matter of) meters away from the municipal hall," he added.

The Sandiganbayan has pointed out that Jinggoy could have asked permission from the court before making the visits.

During the hearing, Jinggoy's lawyer Cleofe Verzola told the court that Jinggoy's five-day pass did not give the ex-mayor enough time to clear his desk.

"Is the court preventing him from having lunch or dinner at his house?" Verzola wanted to know.

Badoy replied that the justices eat their lunch and dinner at the office.

'Stupid suggestion'

The court, apparently stung by the Estrada camp's accusations that the justices were under pressure from Malacañang, admonished both camps against giving interviews.

The admonishment came after the defense team asked the court to compel Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, the prosecution's chief witness, to stop giving interviews.

Estrada lawyer Rene Saguisag told the court that Singson had been interviewed by a television show, but government lawyers pointed out that defense lawyer Raymond Fortun had given numerous interviews as well.

In fact, a militant group jumped yesterday at the chance to ridicule Fortun for remarks made on television. The lawyer had said in a TV interview that he had asked authorities to give the Estradas a Sony PlayStation to provide them with something to do in detention other than talk about their court case.

Branding the suggestion "stupid" and "absurd," the leftist fisherfolk group Pamalakaya asked the government and the Sandiganbayan to reprimand Fortun for making the appeal. The lawyer said in a TV interview the other day that he had gone to authorities with the unusual request.

"The case against the Estradas is not (a source of) toilet humor as Fortun (made) it appear to the public," Pamalakaya said in a statement.

Pamalakaya information officer Gerry Albert-Corpuz said the lawyer had "brought down the case of the People of the Philippines vs. Estrada to the level of the gutter."

Corpuz suggested that the government should instead give Estrada video clips of his aborted impeachment trial and documentary films showing the rise and fall of tyrants worldwide.

Fortun, in the TV interview, had even suggested that the former President might enjoy the PlayStation video games "NBA Live 2001" and "Knockout King." *With reports from Andrea Trinidad-Echavez and Agnes E. Donato*

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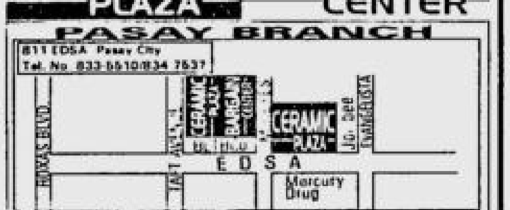

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Vol. 16 No. 195
ISSN 0116-2642

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The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at Chino Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati • P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office, 1263 Makati City, Philippines • Our new telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments: Editorial Fax 897-4793, 897-4794; Advertising 897-4807; Circulation 527-33-42, 527-33-48, 528-01-83, 528-01-86 and 528-02-13, Fax: 528-02-34.

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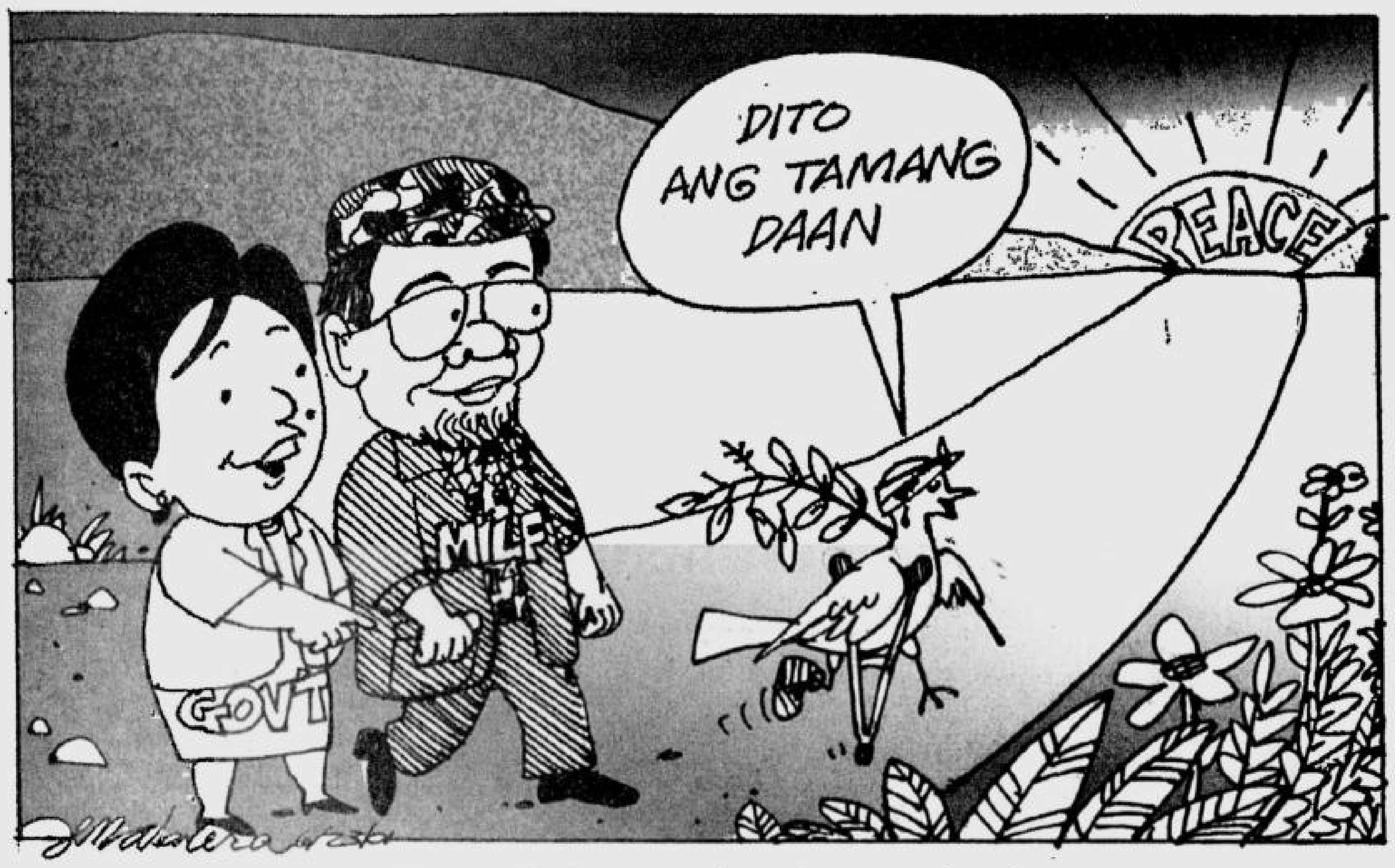

Vandalism in Manila

EDITORIAL

CONSTRUCTION crews are now driving the nails on the coffin of the latest victim of Manila Mayor Lito Atienza's attack on the national heritage: Mehan Gardens.

After he was returned to City Hall in the May elections, Atienza interpreted his reelection as a mandate to press his predatory attacks on the city's historical and cultural treasures. Despite well-grounded opposition from civic groups, he is going ahead with the transfer of the City College of Manila from the former PNB Building on the Escolta to the Mehan Gardens.

Atienza is pushing his heritage demolition project against opposition based on the following grounds:

- He is violating the Constitution that mandates that "the State shall conserve, promote and popularize the nation's historical and cultural heritage and resources, as well as regulate its disposition." The state is mandated to protect it and regulate its disposition. Atienza contradicted this mandate by having the City Council pass an ordinance allowing the construction on Mehan Gardens. Ordinances cannot overturn the highest law of the land.
- He is destroying a national heritage. Established in 1857 as Jardin Botanico, Mehan Gardens is the country's first botanical and zoological garden and the site of the Parian District. It has been recognized by the National Museum as an archaeological site and by the National Historical Institute as a historically significant site.
- The park is in the heart of a cultural, historical and architectural zone bounded by the old Metropolitan Theater, City Hall and the Post Office. The construction of a new edifice on the site will disfigure the architectural symmetry and harmony of the zone.
- The project will break environmental rules. The Mehan Gardens is one of the very few open spaces and parks left in Manila, covering about eight hectares. Only a third of the area will be turned into a college campus. The rest is planned to be a bus and jeepney terminal—a source of further pollution.

Atienza has not been transparent about the project, but sources inside City Hall have revealed that more land will be used for commercial purposes such as the transport terminal, which has a vast potential for hosting pickpockets.

Atienza has not confronted the issues raised by these objections. He has accused the opposers of being "anti-poor." This is a cheap shot, a throwback to the pro-poor sloganeering of deposed President Estrada. Atienza cannot even be original.

True, schools help the poor in general. But since when did parks become a bane to the poor? If parks are anti-poor, then all the parks in the city—including the Luneta and the Paco Cemetery—will eventually have to make way for commercial constructions that will obliterate the rich historical and cultural legacy of Manila.

Parks are not only the "lungs" of a metropolis, especially an extremely overcrowded one like Manila. They are the only amenity that's free to the poor. Most of those who enjoy the amenities of the Luneta are the poor. The rich have their own leisure alternatives.

Atienza is being less than candid when he says that the PNB Building is a hazard and should be condemned. This is not correct. The building is structurally strong and safe. If it is dilapidated now, the reason is that City Hall has not maintained the building properly, so that it would have an excuse to abandon it and build a new building on Mehan Gardens. It costs less to maintain the PNB Building than to build a new college. But now the city government wants to construct a new building as if it were swimming in cash.

There are other pieces of public property where a new building for the college can be built, if only Atienza were not so obsessed with putting it up at Mehan Gardens. A new city college deserves a good campus, with open spaces and a clean environment. Why is it that only a third of the site is to be used for the new college?

If Atienza were not a mayor and if he lived in the Middle Ages he would have easily been a vandal or a barbarian. He has not raised a pip over the building of restaurants on the ramparts of Intramuros, defacing this historical treasure. He has already demolished some of the historical landmarks of Manila, the most noteworthy of which was the Jai-Alai Building, an art deco architectural piece. After Jai Alai and Mehan Gardens, none of the capital's historical treasures will be safe from his predatory rampage.

Atienza must be stopped either by a court order or by a Senate inquiry into this relentless assault on national treasures.

'English as she is spoke'

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

I RECEIVED some time ago a copy of a letter sent to a senator whom I will not identify for obvious reasons. The sender is Agnes Molina, who signs herself as "a retired 86-year-old high school teacher of the pre-war era" residing at 415 Boni Ave., Murphy, Cubao, Quezon City.

The text of the letter, which is addressed to "Senator Blank 'You Know' Blank," reads in full as follows:

"I watched you last night on television on the program 'Strictly Politics' and was again assaulted by a dismaying bloody display of unbridled homicide of the English language.

"You displayed the typical but classic Blank malapropism (I would classify it as just plain bad English grammar) when you attempted to explain your political stance in English, a language whose grammar, syntax and idiomatic expressions have apparently escaped you all your life.

"Respected and admired English writers avoid the execrable expression 'at this point in time.' Only ignoramuses use this deplorable expression, but you did them one better (or should I say worse?) when you said 'at this point OF time'! Wrong preposition for an execrable expression!

"Anak, maawa ka naman sa wikang Ingles. Mag Tagalog ka na lamang!"

I am familiar with teachers like Ms Molina, having studied under many of them during the pre-war era. They were strict about syntax and phonics and were not above rapping our knuckles (figuratively) whenever we offended Mr. Shakespeare. They were the benevolent despots who demanded that we read "Silas Marner" so we would not have to speak like Senator Blank.

Obviously, the good senator did not have the privilege we endured or, if he did, did not benefit from it. This is not the first time he has been criticized for his faulty grammar. I remember receiving a copy of a similar letter years ago, also from another teacher, that could not stand the poor language of the column he was writing. This did not persuade him to take remedial English lessons although he eventually discontinued his column.

Senator Blank should not be unduly depressed, though. Those criticisms were intended for his own good. Considering his high office and higher ambitions, I should think it is not yet too late for him to improve his grammar. In fact, it is especially necessary in his case because of his frequent exposure on television, where he usually speaks in English. He cannot avoid this when appearing on the idiot box.

Besides, in this present society of ours, a good command of English is a required credential for acceptability. A person is regarded as truly educated only if he speaks the language fluently, and not only fluently but also correctly. That may be a snooty attitude but that's the way it is with us. Even our obituaries announce that the deceased was a Ph.D.

Senator Blank may take cold comfort from the fact that there are some politicians whose careers have managed to survive and even flourish despite their unfamiliarity with English. This is no impediment in countries where the language is not generally spoken, although the majority of foreign leaders are now proficient in it. In France and Japan, for example, knowledge of English is not a requirement for national leadership. Hitler spoke eloquently in German and had only contempt for anything English.

It is different with our country, where English is an official language used throughout the land. Even grade schoolers handle it easily, or learn to do so soon enough. Among our children, knowing English is like knowing how to swim or ride a bike as indispensable requisites of growing up. But how to acquire these talents properly depends, of course, upon the child's education and upbringing. It's a pity that some chauvinist parents disdain English simply because it's the language of the foreigner.

Erap's deficiency in English was well known and often comically exposed. I remember one occasion when, reading a prepared speech, he alarmed the audience about a "uniformed citizenry" when he should have said "uninformed citizenry." He made no pretensions to scholarship or even only a modest grasp of English. To his credit, he gamely admitted his limitation and even deprecatingly joked about it.

Others have no humility although they have no ability either. I heard one incumbent senator who was interviewed on CNN and embarrassed the Filipino nation with his grammar. If it is true that election topnotcher Noli de Castro does not know much English, I hope he will confine himself to Tagalog. It's no disgrace to speak in the national language, which is the better alternative to speaking fractured English.

Senator Blank and possibly Senator-elect De Castro will not lack for the company of linguistic misfits in Congress, including their own upper chamber. Senators Francisco Tatad and Miriam Defensor-Santiago will no longer bedazzle their colleagues with English rhetoric, but there are other members who can also be impressive in our native tongue. They can be better understood if they stay in their own backyard, as it were, and speak to us in plain Filipino.

Radio and television can be effective instruments for the proper education of their audience and, I might add, the elevation of the people's moral and artistic values. But they can also be purveyors of bad taste and the dissemination of ghastly grammar and phonics lapses in English that ought to be shot on sight. I have campaigned against "at this point in time" for quite a while now, but announcers and politicians like Senator Blank keep mouthing it like a sacramental phrase. It's like trying to kill wild grass.

Footnote to Pozorrubio

COMMENTARY

Belinda A. Aquino

HONOLULU—My last column on the Pozorrubio "rags to riches" remittance story featured by the Wall Street Journal last May 22 elicited a couple of spirited responses which I will present here.

In the first place, the exact title of the article was, "Philippine Town Plies a Road to Riches Via Monthly Stipends," by Robert Frank. It was subtitled, "But Are Pozorrubians Turning into Slackers As Relatives Abroad Send Home Cash?" It was a pretty thought-provoking piece about a town that has produced the largest concentration of overseas workers in the world today.

Right away I got an e-mail from Ginofreo "Gin" Quesada, who introduced himself as a Pozorrubian working in Saudi Arabia as a telecom engineer. He said a UP alumnus there had called his attention to the article on his hometown. He said he could not find the article in spite of the fact that his website can simultaneously search four engines at the same time. Of course, the reason for the difficulty is that you often have to be a subscriber to these specialized periodicals to be able to download their articles.

Gin said that he recently uploaded his town's website, www.pozorrubio.net in the Internet. He is developing it as a "vortal" for anything Pozorrubian and also Pangasinense. He said he thought of this project with some vision. "I observed that most of my senior kabaleyans and contemporaries are nowhere to be found every time I go on vacation," he continued. As the journal article mentioned, one out of 10 Pozorrubians is out of the country. Gin found out that many of his townmates and contemporaries have gone abroad over the years, and would go home only go for vacation during the annual town fiesta. They have formed their own hometown associations in their host countries.

When the children of these transplanted Pozorrubians visit Gin's website, www.mousnet.net/pozorrubio, they usually ask him to help trace their relatives. He thought of making his website, www.mousenet.net/pozorrubio, the home for Pozorrubio residents in the Internet, and also for the former residents who are now scattered "in the four corners of the earth." For instance, from the hyperlink, Pozorrubians Worldwide, in the Homepage, one can now see some of the community organizations formed by Gin's kabaleyans. The project is still being completed and he is thinking of more pages to add.

Great work! This will develop into an archive that will be useful to social science research, particularly on topics like the Filipino diaspora and Filipino overseas communities. For the many Pozorrubians in various parts of the globe, Gin's website will be a "home away from home." It's also a great way to educate second-generation Pozorrubians who have never visited the ancestral hometown. So, anyone who has relevant information about his hometown and province should get in touch with Gin on his website address.

The other reaction to my last piece came from a non-Pozorrubian who does not want to be identified for obvious reasons. She said she absolutely agreed with me that the "easy cash" from abroad may be spoiling relatives back home who don't realize, she added, how hard it is to work and make money in America. She said she and her husband usually send money to their relatives in the Philippines who keep asking for funds to repair the house, to pay the children's tuition, to buy medicine, to start a business, and so forth. But over the years, there are no proofs of home improvements being made, new businesses being started, or children finishing college. On top of that, she said, she keeps hearing about the "*intriga*" going on among these relatives, some of whom feel jealous or resentful that they are not getting as much as others, "who are just gambling or drinking or going to the cockfight!" She detailed other "tales of woe" involving relatives which are too long or complex to include here.

This person's experiences with relatives are by no means unique to her. I only have anecdotal evidence to go by but I suspect that this tension among overseas Filipinos and their relatives back home is fairly commonplace.

I was on a train in Rome once and a Filipino couple working as domestics struck up a conversation with me. They said they hadn't been back to the Philippines in 10 years because the "*pasalubongs*" alone that they were expected to bring home for their relatives would cost as much as an airplane ticket. On a train to Florence, I met another Pinay working for a rich Italian couple who said she was sending money to her husband regularly for their children, but that she had heard that he was seeing another woman.

Is the modern Filipino family, especially the one separated by the diaspora phenomenon getting increasingly dysfunctional? Is the remittance boon truly going into real development, or just to outward material trappings like refrigerators and TV sets? Are relatives, as Frank observes, turning into slackers with the "easy money" received in the monthly mail? As I indicated last time, much more systematic study needs to be done to establish the true remittance picture and its effects on Philippine society. Despite these scattered stories of domestic tension or dysfunction, there are evidences that the remittances being sent home by overseas workers are being channeled to good uses, like the Pozorrubio examples of civic improvements and higher education of the young. The remittance economy effectively lifted a town from poverty.

In the case of bad relatives, there is no easy way to deal with them, especially the "relathieves" that Filipinos abroad always complain about. In the end, it's a matter of how you deal with them. There is no way you can treat them all equally in a misguided notion of fairness. As the late Fr. Frank Lynch, founder of Ateneo's Institute of Philippine Culture, used to say, relatives are important, but their importance is relative. Judiciousness, prudence, wisdom, reliability, trust, and accountability on the part of relatives are all worthwhile things to remember in sending that hard-earned dollar home.

Belinda A. Aquino is professor of Political Science and Asian Studies and director of the Center for Philippine Studies at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

Is US retaliating for delay in Jimenez deportation?

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

EDGARDO Espiritu, who resigned as finance secretary in the first half of the Estrada administration and was recently appointed by President Macapagal as her special envoy to multilateral and bilateral institutions, with the rank of ambassador, in a brief chat with this columnist, said there appears to be some distortion, perhaps inadvertent, in some news reports on the recent ratings given by the well-known New York City-based international credit-rating firm Standard & Poor's (S&P) to the Macapagal administration. S&P recently affirmed its double 'B'-plus long term and single 'B'-short-term foreign currency sovereign credit rating for the Philippines, and triple 'B'-plus long-term and 'A-2' short-term local currency sovereign credit ratings. The report said the outlook on the long-term ratings remains negative. While S&P recognized that the change in administration last January ended a period of "policy drift" caused by "previously poor political leadership," it nevertheless warned that the sovereign's creditworthiness could decline if the government fails to stabilize and reverse its increasing debt burden, which is now over 80 percent of its gross domestic product, compared to below 70 percent of GDP in 1997, when the Asian financial crisis struck a year before President Ramos bowed out of office.

* * *

Espiritu lamented, however, that some local reports tended to show that the Macapagal administration was only recently demoted to a negative rating when the truth is that this was already the country's rating before the Senate impeachment trial began in the last quarter of last year. At that time S&P's long-term credit rating for the Philippines was downgraded from stable to negative.

What happened, stressed Espiritu, was that in S&P's perception there has been no improvement yet under President Macapagal's five-month-old administration, but certainly, there has been no deterioration. Espiritu also stressed that ratings such as S&P's are given to a country, not a head of government.

* * *

Administration officials lamented that S&P's negative rating did not improve despite the political will shown by the government in passing the power reform law which two previous administrations failed to pass, and the below-target budgetary deficit in the first four months of Ms Macapagal's rule. Poor credit ratings, of course, would distress any administration as this affects both the government's and the private sector's credit standing vis-à-vis international lending institutions. Bankers point out that the cost of borrowings for both government and private sector, in terms of interest rates and charges, goes up as the ratings go down.

* * *

What the S&P ratings mean is that the Macapagal administration simply has to work on more effective communication with foreign financial institutions in order to improve perceptions about the way it is operating in the finance sector. Espiritu pointed out that when he was the finance secretary under Estrada he would devote a part of his time to calling on the key financial institutions abroad and showing them verified statistics and data, instead of leaving them to gather the information from one-sided sources that could be biased or untrue. He said he intends to do this again in his new job as special envoy, but with special attention toward the bilateral (country) institutions. For instance, he's scheduling a visit soon to Japan, the source of nearly 60 percent of our public sector borrowings.

* * *

Another development that irks the banking community is the inclusion last year of the Philippines on the list of 20 or so countries considered as money-laundering havens.

Some countries recently formed a financial task force against money-laundering. Stiffer sanctions have been imposed on the countries on the list, including the Philippines. In turn, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas has come out with some rigid regulations, possibly to avert this country's being black-listed abroad.

Filipino bankers, however, have reacted strongly against the inclusion of the Philippines on the money-laundering list. They point out that Hong Kong and Singapore have been far bigger havens for such activities, judging from the volume of their banking activities alone. The inclusion of this country is most unfair to the local banking community, they say.

* * *

Recently, this columnist learned that an officer of Scotland Yard, which is the equivalent of our National Bureau of Investigation or the US Federal Bureau of Investigation, came here not too long ago and met with representatives of the banking community on this issue. The bankers aired their protest against RP's inclusion and the figures they presented to the Scotland Yard officer were said to have convinced him that this country ought to be stricken off the list of money-laundering havens.

* * *

The question then, is, why was RP included in the first place? Some bankers have opined privately that inasmuch as the United States influences the thinking of the financial task force (in the same way that that superpower influences the World Bank and IMF), it is possible that RP was included as some kind of retaliation for its failure to deport ex-Erap crony Mark Jimenez, who is wanted in the United States for tax and mail fraud charges. Listing RP was the United States' way of saying, you don't mess with us, said one banker. Deport Jimenez, he opined, and you'll see all the sanctions against RP being lifted.

* * *

One complication is, of course, the fact that Jimenez was recently elected to the House of Representatives. Jimenez defeated longtime politician Pabling Ocampo, who ran for daughter Sandy's House seat, by a margin of only a little over 700 votes, despite allegations in the media about Jimenez's heavy vote-buying, an indication of Pabling's strength in Manila. Some House members began making noises about stopping Jimenez's deportation since he allegedly has done nothing criminal inside the Philippines. Speaking of local cases, whatever happened to the two estafa cases filed here against Jimenez, one of them by Zuellig?

* * *

Dr. Cesar O. Chua of Legazpi City wrote to ask for some addresses, following an item here about government and private-sector poverty alleviation and people-empowerment programs that are in place. He wants to coordinate with them. Here they are:

- People's Credit & Financing Corp. (chaired by Margarito Teves) 395 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City, Tel. Nos. 896-1601/899-6074
- National Anti-Poverty Commission (chaired by Teresita Quintos-Deles), 6/F, DFC Bldg., 1115 Edsa, Quezon City, Tel. Nos. 373-3361/371-70-12
- Opportunity International United States of America (Charles L. Dokno, CEO), 2122 York Road, Suite 340, Oak Brook, Illinois, 60523, USA. Tel. No. 800-7WE-WILL or 630-645-4100; e-mail address: getinfo@opportunity.org

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Humble suggestions

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

ALONG WITH our new househelp who joined our household about two months ago, we are also playing hosts to her three young daughters, the oldest of whom is turning six and due to start pre-school. After some discussion, my husband and I agreed that we would pay for the girl's education. But after scouting nearby private pre-schools, we found the fees quite stiff, and so we asked her mother to look for a suitable public pre-school. She found one in the village where our laundry woman lives, but came home dispirited the day she sought to enroll her child.

The school could not accept her child, she said, because she couldn't produce the girl's birth certificate. When we asked where the document was, our *kasambahay* said she had never gotten around to getting a birth certificate for any of her children! They failed to pay the final installment on the midwife's fees for the birth of her eldest, she said, so the midwife didn't bother to file a birth certificate for the child. She and her estranged husband then relied on a *hilot* (or traditional birth attendant) for the births of the other girls.

A few days ago, she went back to their place and offered to pay the midwife the remaining balance, but was taken aback when the midwife demanded double the amount owed her. "So now, I've decided not to send my girl to school in the meantime," she told us.

I'd have understood if this flap over a birth certificate had taken place in some remote provincial *barangay*. But before coming to live with us, our househelp was living somewhere near the Batasan!

* * *

IF EVER I needed proof of how estranged the poor in this country are from our institutions, this anecdote about the non-existent birth certificates of three very real girls should be it. But here's another story.

Some years back, our laundry woman (who comes to our home thrice a week) asked us if we could agree to stand as her employer because she wanted to join the Social Security System. Though we were not her sole employer, we agreed, even if it meant shouldering the employer's counterpart by ourselves. We also said that if the arrangement worked out, we'd also enroll our other househelp.

We had only one condition, though. Our laundry woman would have to do the applying herself and take care of remitting the SSS dues because neither my husband nor I would have time to deal with the SSS on a monthly basis. She dutifully went to the local SSS office and came back with a document we had to fill up and sign as her employers. And we would have signed, except that we could make neither heads nor tails of it. I resolved to consult my brother, who works in human resources, about that form.

But shortly after, our laundry woman told me sadly that she was dropping the whole idea. Why? The SSS office needed her birth certificate, "but it's in the province, and I no longer have relatives there. Who will get it for me? I can't afford to go home, besides, I can't spare the time just to get it."

* * *

NOW friends tell me she could have gotten her birth certificate from the National Statistics Office, which has already gone on-line. But I don't think it was just the time and effort needed to secure the document that fazed her. Rather, it was the intimidating prospect of having to deal with the bureaucracy: lining up, facing an indifferent clerk and speaking up to demand a basic service.

Lord knows, I dread each time I need to deal with the bureaucracy. There's something dispiriting and disgusting about every encounter, from the arrogant way clerks deal with you to the fixers who swarm over you. As much as I can, I delegate the work to others. But what about folks like my househelp and laundry woman? Will they forever remain outside the reach of government? On what will they base their feelings of empowerment and entitlement as citizens, if every encounter with the front-line of government personnel is alienating and frightening?

What will happen to the three young girls now sharing our home? Someday, if one of the girls should want to get married, or find work abroad, their mother will have to produce a birth certificate somehow. When that day comes, she will either pay through the nose for the genuine article or have a fake document drawn up. Disgusting, either way you look at it.

* * *

LATELY, in the wake of the Malacañang assault and the "Edsa Puwera" gathering, I've been sitting down with various groups to talk about ways of "reaching out" to the poor. There must be a way to bridge the yawning gaps in our society, we say. We cannot just sit by and allow the present situation, where rich and poor live, work and play on separate planets and seem to intersect only in terms of violence and criminality, to continue.

Well, here's one concrete suggestion. To bring the government closer to the people, "Ate" Gloria doesn't have to dress up in *maong* and ride a side-car around an urban poor community. She could start by making it easier for the poor to deal with the bureaucracy. Simplify the requirements for securing a birth certificate. Allow parents to enroll "non-certified" children while the teachers help the parents get birth certificates for them. Make government processes and requirements easier to fathom. Reword bureaucratic forms, such as the SSS membership form, so that clueless employers of househelp won't need to hire a personnel manager. Teach government clerks the ethic of customer service, to smile and to treat with respect everyone who comes to their window.

Little things. Petty reforms. But these are what we need right now.

Musings on Mehan Gardens

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

MY friend Doris does a lot of traveling. Trouble is her travels take her to First World countries so that when she returns she can't square in her mind what she sees with what she saw abroad.

"If I were mayor, I would want people to visit my city," she says. "I would have shade trees and pavements for people to walk on. I'd make sure parks are open and not surrounded by fences and encroached by buildings. I'd clear up certain streets for out-door cafés and interesting shops so people can wander around and sit on benches when they get tired."

Sounds logical, doesn't it? Sure it does, if you're talking First World.

Now Third World is an entirely different matter. For one thing, people like Doris and the rest of the AB market aren't the constituency of the mayors, which is of course why we lost the Jai-Alai Building. Manila Mayor Lito Atienza couldn't have cared less what our motley group thought. He was well aware that none of us came from the areas where he expected his votes to come. Maybe Marikina is an exception but as a whole the vast majority of the voting urban population are on an entirely different track.

With the possible exception of Sen. Loren Legarda and a few other politicians (and we have still to hear from them on the issue of the destruction of Mehan Gardens), the quality of life and urbanity is hardly a concern. First, it was winning an election and making sure your rival wasn't more adept than you were. Next it's the speakership and the Senate presidency and all that wheeling and dealing. Then will come committee chairmanships and memberships and that lovely bane of the tax payer, the pork barrel. So, pray tell, who in government that can make a difference has time for Mehan Gardens? You really think Romeo Jalosjos cares two figs?

Okay, so not Jalosjos. There were others who were involved in culture at least insofar as culture-related bills were concerned. There was former Sen. Leticia Shahani who believes she should be chair of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts because she authored the bill creating that agency together with Heherson Alvarez. Well, do you hear either of them speak up? There's Sen. Edgardo Angara and Education Secretary Raul Roco who've been involved in cultural issues in the past. It would be nice to hear from them on the issue of Mehan Gardens and Manila's heritage. But would their protest, if it were forthcoming, make any difference to Atienza? Does he care whether they agree with him or not? I doubt it.

Interior Secretary Joey Lina was at the Rizal Park supposedly for some consultations to know the problems of the "people," according to a letter from the Manindigan group. If anybody went and I can well imagine who might have gone, I can hardly see them complaining that Atienza was totally obliterating Manila's past or that he has just finished destroying the Army & Navy with some restaurant's structure. Neither has the interior secretary any reputation for caring one way or another for open spaces. The law he authored when he was still a senator removed the criminal element from squatting. You could of course agree with that point of view if he had made an effort to concentrate on the development of the provinces such as Samar for instance so that people wouldn't be forced to migrate to urban areas where they have to live under bridges and culverts for lack of opportunities in their own hometowns.

The American architect, Daniel Burnham, had a plan for Manila that make people who read it smile because, of course, it would have been the type of city that would have been on everybody's tourist map. (Doris has to remember though that tourists don't vote.) For one, the boulevard would have extended to Cavite City and the coastal area dotted with parks and bridle paths. It would have contained the most expensive real estate in the country earmarked for embassies, hotels and mansions. Not exactly what you'd call a pro-poor plan, except that Burnham wanted the whole city built around parks and canals so that people could enjoy the open and shaded spaces. He believed that creating recreational spaces in the inner cities with sports facilities had a positive effect on the youth.

On the other hand, if the government has taken the tact that the Philippines has been independent for 103 years, why would anyone want to be reminded of Burnham? As a matter of fact, it makes more than a little sense to redesign Manila in Atienza's image rather than some foreigner, wouldn't you say? So if the Government Service Insurance System and the senators tacitly concur for instance that Manila Hotel be demoted from a five-star hotel to a nothing *panciteria*, why should we quibble? And even if we did, you really believe it makes a difference to the reality of politics and elections in this country? No, Virginia, there isn't any Santa Claus around here anymore.

The President is up to her ears and maybe over them too with a bunch of bandits who have found a sure-fire way of making millions. The peso is at an all-time low, the peace and order situation in a terrifying downward glide, the exodus of trained young professionals on the rise. Soon there should be no one left but the politicians and their constituents (well, maybe, a couple of complaining columnists, reporters and editors). Will there be anyone among the populace left who cares that the premier city has been into the armpit of Asia?

As for the mayor's statement that "we aren't culturally ignorant and insensitive" and that his projects do not sacrifice "historical significance," well, remember the Jai Alai.

A glimpse of heaven

Philippe Andrew B. Gallanosa

IT was the evening of Black Saturday. I was attending the Easter Vigil, the Holy Mass celebrated in anticipation of Easter Sunday. Because Easter is one of the major feasts of Christendom, I couldn't find a seat in the church.

What else is new? I thought to myself. By next Sunday, one-half or even two-thirds of this community will not be here.

The following Sunday, I was not standing anymore.

This and similar happenings are what I have been witnessing these days. I have just begun to be sensitive to the implications of this anomaly, and they are not very pleasant at all.

YOUNGBLOOD

*We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.***

We, Filipinos, indeed are seasonal Christians. I do not wish to ignore the devotion to the faith of many Christians, but the bigger picture is something really dismaying.

We attend the Simbang Gabi and go to Mass on Christmas Day, Ash Wednesday, Holy Week, Easter Sunday, town fiestas or birthdays. We go to church on special occasions or religious rites that have been turned into social events such as weddings, baptisms, confirmations and funeral rites. But other than these occasions, we do not even care to make a short visit to the church. Church-going seems to be dictated by social obligations. I have yet to see an "ordinary" Mass being celebrated in a church filled with people.

But every Holy Mass is an extraordinary gift more precious than all the money, gold and glory that this world can possibly offer. It is the highest form of prayer made available to us for our own salvation. It is an invitation from our Creator to join Him in His eternal banquet, the solemn commemoration of his salvific act when He spilled His blood to save humanity.

Every time we give preference to "more important" things over the Holy Mass, we lose so much. We decline our Lord's invitation to join in His own sacrifice. And when our refusal becomes habitual, we start to lose our connection with God.

The Catholic Church considers the failure to attend Mass without a valid reason a mortal sin. By declining to attend the celebration, we hurt ourselves. For we need God, and He does not need us.

Knowing this should not move us to obey the Church's precept out of fear, but out of real need and love.

If we are remiss in our obligation to go to Mass, we can hardly be expected to say our daily prayers. We go about our daily routine without even bothering to say the "Apostle's Creed" or a "Hail Mary." Very few people say the rosary or even grace before and after meals. Not very many pray before going to bed and upon waking up in the morning. Prayer is not a part of our daily activities.

We have made a habit of watching our favorite television series or sports, we regularly talk to friends on the corner, over the phone or on the Internet, but we do not set aside a few minutes to hold a dialogue with our Savior. There is no harm in doing it. It is free. And we earn lots of graces.

We do not remember God in times of plenty. There is no God when all the members of the family are healthy, when we have a sizable amount saved in the bank, when we have our own home, when we have a cell phone, when the refrigerator is full, when we feel safe. Prayer is just our last resort.

The altars in our homes collect dust and cobwebs. But when the problems come, every hand has a rosary: Immediately God takes center stage. Otherwise He is just a statue waiting to be polished and dusted.

This is very sad, but very true.

I wish to stand more frequently during the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. I would love to stand all the time, if I could just see the church filled with our brothers and sisters, praying and aspiring to build a true community, a genuine Church of God.

Maybe our prayers will save our nation from the crises besetting it. Maybe the Holy Eucharist will bring us closer to building a community that is free of graft, corruption, crime, poverty, hunger, pain and suffering. Maybe our prayers will give us a glimpse of heaven while we are here on earth.

Philippe Andrew B. Gallanosa, 16, is a college freshman at Our Lady of Peñafrancia Minor Seminary in Sorsogon.

Sorry

Ken Cornelius R. Pascua

ANDREW Young, the first black to serve as United States ambassador to the United Nations, once said, "It is a blessing to die for a cause, because one can so easily die for nothing."

Kenneth Bulong's untimely death at the age of 22 may be a blessing for him. He died for a cause. He gave up his life for something. Others may disagree with me. But I am sure Kenneth was a blessing to the world and to those who loved him.

I am not in any way related to Kenneth; I didn't know him personally. I first heard his name when the media reported that he had been killed during an encounter with the Abu Sayyaf in Basilan. I am hardly in a position to say anything about him. How I can I speak about someone whom I do not even know very well?

I just feel sorry for him, for the "blessing" that was given to him of dying young when he still wanted to accomplish a lot of things for those he loved. I am just sorry for his family who lost a son who must have been very special to them. And I am sorry that while so many people like Kenneth are risking their lives for their country, I am comfortably sleeping in the safe confines of my home where I am near to my family.

I am sorry for the innocent lives that are being affected by the conflict. I am sorry for Kenneth's comrades who must be missing their families terribly. I am sorry for their wives and children who are now worrying about how they are.

I am sorry for the country which was in the process of healing before this "war" started.

I am more sorry than furious at the members of the Abu Sayyaf for not knowing how to love anything but themselves. Their families must be ashamed of them. It must be terrible for them to live like wild animals being hunted in the forest. They killed people like Kenneth who bravely fought them and their insatiable greed for money.

I see in Kenneth a young boy who was playing the role of a man in this conflict. I see him as a protector of the lives of many men, women and children who are victims of this "war." I see in his fate how strong is the hand of evil.

Kenneth is a blessing and an inspiration. And God forgive those who caused his death and the deaths of many others like him. God forgive those who permitted this "war" to come about. God bless Kenneth and his loved ones.

Kenneth by his death, did not lose anything. He "continues to perceive, to understand, to laugh, to grow." If he ever lost anything, it is something he does not need anymore.

Ken Cornelius R. Pascua, 17, is a business administration freshman at the University of the Philippines in Diliman. He wants the contributor's fee for this article to be given as "a gift of gratitude" to Kenneth Bulong's family.

The INQUIRER is a member of the
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The National Association of Philippine Newspapers

Retirees can relieve teachers' shortage

I WISH to give my suggestion to the education secretary concerning the yearly school shortage problem.

To ease the yearly shortage of facilities and mentors, consider this suggestion: Tap nationwide the resources of teacher retirees who have been tried and proven efficient in their own areas or concerns. Turn a small portion outside their homes into make-shift classrooms. Admit at least five children of the same grade level who live within walking distance to the teacher's home. Emphasis must be on reading, comprehension and writing. Give an examination at the end of the year for admission to the next school year.

These are the advantages for parents and children: no uniforms, no bus fare, no *baon*, no closed doors and no sectionalizing. On the whole there will be effective learning.

Teachers have always been on the frontline when the nation calls. They may question the remuneration, but nonetheless they serve. God does not forget teachers who lend a helping hand. He pays back a hundredfold.

If you think this is a worthy suggestion, try it.—**ROSARIO R. LIBERATO, 21 Marietta Romeo Village, Sta. Lucia, Pasig City**

WELCOME BACK
TEACHER

Coddling the plunderers

MALACAÑANG'S insistence on hospital arrest for Joseph Estrada despite the doctors' issuance of a clean bill of health for him and his son is nothing but an act of coddling plunderers and not a humanitarian gesture. While the administration literally throws out and shuns thousands of indigent patients because of its policy of corporatizing hospitals and running them as profit centers, it continues to roll out the medical "red carpet" to the ousted president in the pretext of reconciliation.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo should start caring for the truly sick and not those who feign illnesses and dangers to life. The health crisis of the nation, the disastrous effects of the government's privatization frenzy and the impending oil price hikes are far more real and are endangering the lives of millions of Filipinos.

It is lamentable that Ms Macapagal has not done anything about the health agenda that the group presented when she was still vice president, and followed up several times at the doors of Malacañang. Among our immediate demands are the scrapping of the planned corporatization/privatization of public hospitals, the lowering of prices of medicines, and the grant of a P3,000 across-the-board wage increase for public health workers, including their withheld benefits.

Before she delivers her State of the Nation Address (Sona), the President should salvage her image as the health sector is getting increasingly dismayed by her inability to deliver on her promise of good governance.

With regard to its reported openness to let Estrada attend Ms Macapagal's first Sona, I think this administration is going overboard in showing the cinematic drama of "genuine reconciliation." I expect Estrada to be the first to clap as Ms Macapagal reports on his unfinished business of further liberalization, privatization and deregulation.—**REYNALDO LESACA JR., M.D., chair, Health Alliance for Democracy (HEAD), 233 Mayon cor. N. Roxas Sts., Quezon City**

Acts of harassment by administration

THIS is in connection with your story, "Maceda asked to account for 25 Washington staffers."

This is my answer: "Impossible," as former Foreign Secretary Domingo Siazon Jr. put it.

Impossible because the US Embassy would never allow it.

This is another *kuryente* story meant to continue harassing us simply because we supported former President Estrada and the opposition Puwersa ng Masa.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Siazon would never have approved 25 members for my household staff. In fact, I was allowed seven.

The more important factor here is, the US Embassy minutely checks the applicants and their backgrounds and interviews them. Visas are not granted automatically. As a matter of fact, the US Embassy approved six and disapproved one because he had a pending case. Dalmacio Lim never left the Philippines.

After one year, three of my household staff returned so we replaced them. Their number was always six at any given time. The nine mentioned included the ones who were replaced.

The residence of the Philippine ambassador in Washington is a 12-bedroom, four-story building built in 1905. It was not in good shape. We had to do a lot of work to put it in a habitable, presentable order. Visitors were amazed at how fast we rehabilitated the house.

The Philippine Embassy in Washington is a premier diplomatic post, the United States being the only superpower. We are dealing with our principal defense, security and trade partner. We deal with the White House, the Senate and the House of Representatives and the different executive departments.

In addition, we have to attend to the needs of three million Filipinos and Filipino Americans with 3,000 organizations.

We had a never-ending succession of visitors to entertain. During our year and a half tenure, the President visited twice, the Vice President thrice. Most of our senators and Cabinet members and dozens of congressmen also visited. The delegation to the annual World Bank-International Monetary Fund meetings numbering 50 or more came twice. A delegation of 25 mayors came and stayed for two weeks. Even cultural groups requested, sometimes demanded, assistance, including lodging. Veterans' delegations came regularly.

During the presidential visit in July 2000, 220 VIPs came, including 60 members of media, all expecting to be attended to in a personal way. Our household staff of six were constantly cooking, cleaning and attending to house guests. With the time difference, we had to answer calls from Manila up to the wee hours of the morning.

Despite limited financial and personnel resources, we delivered results, securing more than $400 million in military, food, agriculture, research and training assistance. We visited 35 states, addressed and renewed ties with over 200 Filipino associations, something no previous ambassador did.

We do not expect to be commended for doing a good job. (We received over 200 citations from Filipino associations and US business groups.) We just hope that these reports be exposed for what they are: political harassment because of the change of administration.

The other false charge of car smuggling has previously been denied and rebutted. Foreign affairs advisers Rolleo Ignacio, Patricia Porras and labor attaché Lorenzo Leynes paid taxes and duties on their cars.

As for the two cars registered in my name, we decided not to bring them home anymore after being told that we would be paying millions in taxes. There was no attempt to bring them in illegally. The appropriate approvals were secured from the DFA, the Department of Finance and the Office of the President.

After false charges of attempted car smuggling and alleged conspiracy to commit rebellion, and now 25 special passports, what is next? We are not surprised anymore.

Anyway, truth is on our side.—**ERNESTO M. MACEDA, former ambassador to the United States, 10-D Ocean Tower, 2044 Roxas Boulevard, Malate, Manila**

Proven experience in House leadership

THE POSITION taken by the Council on Philippine Affairs (Copa) on the speakership of the House of Representatives that former Speaker Jose de Venecia has had his run and thus should no longer become speaker again is flimsy and not material in the context of the qualifications needed to provide leadership in the House and make it produce legislation urgently required to solve the problems of the country.

One only has to recall that during his stint, De Venecia was able to make the diverse personalities in the House work together and pass urgent measures to know that he is again the man of the hour with the proven experience to lead the House to productivity. Rather than take as a fault his ability to forge alliances with opposing groups, this should be taken as a gem of a quality since the work of legislation requires the ability to thresh out disagreements over proposed measures. A man like De Venecia can get the job done in the House.

The personality of De Venecia, as I know him, is one that favors reconciliation and compromise rather than conflict, traits that are badly needed now.—**ERNESTO C. VERCELES, labor sector representative, 9th and 10th Congress, University of the East Employees' Association, 2219 Claro M. Recto Ave., Manila**

Properly audited by COA

THIS is with reference to the letter of Celeste Argones published in your paper last June 14, asking the Commission on Audit to look into income generated by the Commission on Higher Education the 4th Higher Education Congress through advertisements and accusing CHED officials of treating these contributions with proprietary interest.

For her information, all expenditures for the recent congress as well as the past congresses properly passed through the COA audit. Argones is welcome to look into our transactions as well as the financial statements relative to the congress. We will voluntarily resign from our respective positions if any mismanagement of funds is found.

This is the second letter accusing the CHED of mismanagement of the congress. This character assassination is being done by cowards who are trying to hide under the cloak of anonymity by using fictitious names and addresses. The names of Celeste Argones and Jocelyn Sagun do not appear on the list of participants in the congress.

We are challenging these people to come out in the open and do their patriotic duty of filing the appropriate charges against us in the proper forum.—**ROGER P. PEREZ, executive director IV, Commission on Higher Education, DAP Bldg., San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City**

Symbolic victory for the poor

THE RACE for the speakership of the House of Representatives should be viewed in the context of what is most workable owing to our people's desire for leaders who are truly dynamic, reform-oriented and espousing the values of the new politics we want to obtain in our country.

While the choice of speaker lies with the congressmen themselves, such choice should take into account the people's sentiments.

Rep. Florencio "Butch" Abad, of the lone district of Batanes who is the president of the Liberal Party, is the best choice among those who are vying for the post. He is no turncoat, is pro-poor and gets his strength not from the mere power of numbers but the enlightened conviction of people who yearn to see the aspirations of Filipinos translated into better delivery of services.

Abad's triumph would symbolize victory for the many poor but powerless, the toppling of the dominant but few moneyed class and legislative representation grounded in the grass roots. We can foresee a most favorable and advantageous working relationship between and among the three branches of government with Abad as speaker.—**GERMAN S. CACCAM, Basco, Batanes**

What is a double or triple red alert?

WILL someone please explain to me what a double or triple red alert really means?

In my Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) days, I learned that the Armed Forces of the Philippines follows the US model of using different colors to indicate the degree of alertness, e.g., blue, green, yellow and red, with red being the maximum, 100-percent state of readiness. Frankly I have never heard of a double or triple red alert in any other country's police and armed forces. After all, how can one have a double or triple maximum anything?

I was just wondering if double or triple red alert is some buzzword invented by the public relations staff of the AFP and Philippine National Police to make it look like these organizations are doing a lot of things.

This is in no way meant to belittle the already mighty efforts these institutions are making, but let's be honest and accurate about it.—**WILLIAM ESTEBAN, Lope K. Santos Street, San Juan, Metro Manila**

The revolutionary Left: Back to center stage?

COMMENTARY

Nathan Gilbert Quimpo

THE "NATIONAL DEMOCRATS" (NDs)—leftists identified with the Communist Party of Philippines (CPP)—have been very much in the news lately. Together with other Left and anti-*trapo* forces, activists of Bayan, the umbrella coalition of various open, legal ND organizations, were in the forefront of the huge rallies and mass actions that culminated in the awesome display of "people power" (Edsa II) and the ouster of the "boss": President Joseph Estrada. In the recent elections, the neophyte ND electoral party, Bayan Muna, topped the party-list vote and snared a few seats in local government bodies, too. Shortly after, the National Democratic Front (NDF), the CPP-led coalition of underground ND organizations, reopened peace negotiations with the Philippine government in Oslo, Norway. Recently, partisans of the New People's Army (NPA) ambushed and killed Cagayan Rep. Rodolfo Aguinaldo, who was said to have been one of worst torturers of political prisoners during the Marcos dictatorship.

The revolutionary Left, which had its heyday in the dark years of the Marcos dictatorship and which went into the doldrums in the late 1980s and through much of the 1990s, appears to be moving back to the center stage of Philippine politics.

Rise and decline of the CPP

At its founding in December 1968, the CPP declared that it would wage an armed revolution to overthrow the "reactionary" Philippine state and establish a "national democracy." A few months later, the CPP formed its military force, the NPA. With the upsurge of the youth and student movement in the early 1970s, the ND movement spread out to all regions of the country. The NDs suffered grave setbacks in the first few years of martial law, but soon recovered. By the early 1980s, the NDs, operating both underground and aboveground, had emerged as the biggest, most organized and most militant political and military force fighting the Marcos dictatorship. As a result of an ill-advised boycott of the 1986 snap presidential elections, however, the NDs were left out of the "people power" uprising (Edsa I) two weeks later and were subsequently politically marginalized. The collapse of the socialist regimes in Eastern Europe in 1989-1991 further isolated the CPP.

In 1991-1993, the CPP was plunged into a deep internal ideological debate that turned into a very intense and acrimonious polemical struggle and ended up in a party split. What triggered the split was a document written by CPP chair Jose Ma. Sison titled, "Reaffirm Our Basic Principles and Rectify the Errors." Those who supported Sison's views were eventually called "reaffirmists" and those who opposed, "rejectionists."

Sison and the "reaffirmists" sought to uphold the "basic principles of Marxism-Leninism-Mao Zedong thought." In revolutionary strategy, Maoist doctrine stipulates the waging of a "protracted people's war" in which the armed struggle would be the principal form of struggle and all other forms of struggle would be subordinate to and in support of it. In line with the concept of "encircling the cities from the countryside," the principdl arena of the struggle over a long period would be the rural areas where guerrilla zones and base areas would be built and consolidated. The revolutionary war would progress from guerrilla warfare, to regular mobile warfare and eventually to positional warfare, and from strategic defensive, to strategic stalemate and eventually to strategic offensive. Once the "reactionary" state had been overthrown, a "people's democratic republic" similar to the one founded by Mao in China would be set up. As the vanguard of the proletariat, the communist party would be the ruling party in this republic.

The "rejectionists" advocated a shift in strategy to a "politico-military" approach similar to the one employed by the revolutionary forces in Vietnam and El Salvador. In this approach, the political struggle would be put on a more or less even keel with the armed or military struggle, and the urban struggle with the countryside struggle. Under certain circumstances, e.g. an insurrectionary situation, the political and urban struggles could even take primacy over the military and rural struggles. The "rejectionists" also drew attention to the importance of pursuing the "diplomatic struggle" and work in the international arena, as part of the overall political struggle. Instead of a seizure of power achieved mainly through armed or military means, the "rejectionists" saw other possible denouements: victory through a popular uprising or insurrection, victory through the ballot, or negotiated political settlement. Instead of "total victory," the "rejectionists" were open to "partial victory": that the revolutionary Left would just be part of the ruling coalition and not necessarily be the sole ruling party; or that it would be able to compete in elections in a more level playing field, as the revolutionary forces in El Salvador did after their "negotiated revolution." The "rejectionists" eschewed the concept of a "people's democratic republic" with a permanent "vanguard party" as they considered this a Stalinist one-party dictatorship.

For upholding the Maoist tradition, the "reaffirmists" continued to use the name CPP. Since the party split, the "rejectionists" have further splintered into several groups, some persisting with the armed struggle (albeit within a "politico-military" framework) and others taking the purely legal route. A major section of the CPP organization in Central Luzon broke away from the "reaffirmists" a few years ago, but the organization has remained largely in tact. With the gains achieved by the "reaffirmists" in recent years, in contrast with the apparent disarray in the "rejectionist" camp, the CPP leadership has crowed about the correctness of their ideological and political line.

Reaffirming Maoist Principles?

But can the CPP's and the NDs' gains indeed be attributed to their faithful adherence to the fundamental doctrines of Maoism? A close scrutiny reveals the contrary. Their gains are due more to a deviation from—in truth, a rejection of—Maoist doctrine.

In actual practice, the NDs have of late been pursuing a "politico-military" approach rather than the traditional Maoist approach. As a matter of fact, they have actually been putting greater emphasis on the political and urban struggles than on the military and rural struggles. The best proof of this is the NDs' prominent role at Edsa II, which was without a doubt a non-armed struggle in an urban setting. Like its 1986 predecessor, Edsa II was in fact in the nature of a popular uprising, which is regarded in the Vietnamese framework as one of the highest forms of political struggle.

The NDs' active participation in Edsa II was in fact a culmination of their militant involvement in a long series of mostly urban political actions on a variety of issues: the Oil Deregulation Law, President Estrada's all-out war in Mindanao, release of political prisoners, human rights, land reform, rights and welfare of overseas Filipino workers, etc.

The electoral struggle, another form of political struggle, has long been like an Achilles heel of the Left. During the Marcos dictatorship, the NDs boycotted all elections (except in Metro Manila in 1978), dogmatically asserting, "*Rebolusyon, hindi eleksyon!*" each time. They failed to realize that under certain circumstances, elections—even less-than-democratic ones—can actually hasten or bring about the downfall of a dictator. After the disastrous 1986 boycott, the NDs finally ventured into electoral politics. Because of the "primacy of armed struggle" mind-set, however, they were confused for some time about what they were in the electoral arena for—to simply engage in a bit of propaganda, to do "fund-raising" (e.g., "taxes" on candidates entering NPA areas), or to actually compete to win. The successful bids of a few non-ND leftists in the 1998 party-list vote helped convince the NDs to take the third option in 2001.

(To be concluded)

Nathan Gilbert Quimpo is a former member of the Communist Party of the Philippines who used to write under the pseudonyms Marty Villalobos and Omar Tupaz. He is currently working for a Ph.D. in political science in Canberra, Australia.

Oops... Sorry... due to unforeseen weather condition, the **Selecta Cornetto Party** scheduled tonight (June 23) at **G3 Drive, Ayala Center will be moved to July 28** instead.

Please refer to print ad in Lifestyle Section E page 7.

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The WORLD

Wahid: I've 'secrets' to avert impeachment

JAKARTA—Indonesian President Abdurrahman Wahid said yesterday he has many cards up his sleeve to avert possible impeachment next month for corruption and incompetence during his erratic 20-month rule.

"There are so many options that I don't have to disclose here, including early elections," Wahid told a Muslim congregation after Friday prayers.

"An Arabic proverb says your secret is your hostage. If you release the secret you'll be held hostage by it," he added.

The People's Consultative Assembly, the country's supreme legislature, is due to hold a special session on Aug. 1 to demand Wahid account for his erratic governance after accusations of corruption and incompetence.

The rejection of Wahid's accounting would mean impeachment.

Wahid had earlier considered imposing a state of emergency, which would allow him to dissolve parliament and call early elections, if MPs went ahead with the impeachment drive.

But he relented after the military, police and many of his key ministers expressed their opposition to such a drastic move. *AFP*

US indicts 14 for 1996 truck bombing in Saudi

WASHINGTON—US Attorney General John Ashcroft announced Thursday the indictment of 14 people in connection with the 1996 truck bombing of an apartment building that killed 19 US airmen in Saudi Arabia and wounded more than 370 people.

The indictment names 13 Saudi citizens—all said to be members of Saudi Hezbollah, an organization whose members are drawn from the country's Shiite Muslim community and which is outlawed by the Saudi government.

Also included in the indictment is a Lebanese national, whom the US authorities have not yet succeeded in identifying. He is described as a member of Lebanese Hezbollah who helped convert a fuel truck to carry the massive bomb which destroyed part of the Khobar Towers military building in the eastern Saudi town of Dhahran.

The indictment maintains that certain Iranian government officials supervised the local Hezbollah members as they monitored the US presence in Saudi Arabia, looking for a suitable target.

However, it "does not name as defendants individual members of the Iranian government," Ashcroft told a news conference. Evidence against any individual had to be strong enough to make successful prosecution likely, he added.

President George W. Bush said, "I want to thank the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for their assistance in this investigation," and assured families of victims that the US authorities would "continue working . . . to make sure that justice is done."

The indictments are on charges of murder, conspiracy to commit murder, and conspiracy to use weapons of mass destruction. *AFP*

Settlers run riot against Palestinians

JERUSALEM—Jewish settlers ran riot against Palestinians in the West Bank yesterday, blocking traffic, burning crops and beating up journalists, Palestinian witnesses said.

The settlers, furious at the Israeli government's continued restraint after the killing of three settlers since Monday despite a ceasefire, brandished placards calling on the authorities to act.

The incidents happened near Ramallah, in the northern West Bank, where crop were burned, east of Bethlehem, where Palestinian cars were stoned, and in the Hebron area, where two Palestinian journalists were beaten, the witnesses said.

Israeli military radio said yesterday that the Army had advised settlers in the occupied Palestinian territories to travel in convoys or in armored vehicles on two West Bank roads.

The aim is to reduce the risks of attacks and enable settlers to return fire in case of ambush by Palestinians, it said.

The daily Yediot Aharonot said the military also planned to use pilotless reconnaissance aircraft to spot Palestinians about to commit suicide attacks, following them up with combat helicopters.

The existence of the settlements, which have been declared illegal by the United Nations, is one of the main bones of contention in the conflict between the Israelis and Palestinians.

The ceasefire agreed last week under US pressure, is aimed at bringing to a halt the Palestinian uprising against occupation which began nearly nine months ago and has resulted in more than 600 deaths, most of them Palestinian. *AFP*

Macedonia army attacks rebels near capital

SINGJELIC, Macedonia—The Macedonian Army pounded an ethnic Albanian town on the outskirts of the capital Skopje with helicopter gunships, mortars and artillery yesterday, ending a two-week truce between troops and ethic Albanian rebels.

The attack came as Nato Secretary General George Robertson warned Macedonia was "close to civil war," following the collapse on Wednesday of peace talks between the political leaders of Macedonia's Slav and Albanian communities.

A rebel commander in the suburban town of Aracinovo—which was seized on June 8 by ethnic Albanians from the self-proclaimed National Liberation Army (NLA)—said three civilians had been killed in the Army assault and threatened to mortar bomb Skopje if the offensive did not stop.

Army spokesperson Col. Blagoja Markovski said the assault was launched at 4 a.m. using Ukrainian Mi-24 helicopter gunships, adding the attack was designed to "destroy the terrorists in Aracinovo."

Commander Hoxha, the leader of the rebels in Aracinovo, a town whose population is mainly ethnic Albanian, said "three civilians had been killed and 18 injured" in the attack.

"If they don't stop the offensive I'm going to mortar bomb Skopje" Hoxha said by telephone.

Arancinovo is less than 10 km from the center of the capital and about 10 km from Skopje airport, an important logistical hub for Nato peacekeeping operations in the neighboring Serbian province of Kosovo.

Hoxha said the security forces were advancing on his men's positions on the edge of Aracinovo.

At 9:30 a.m. heavy machinegun and regular mortar fire could also be heard from the neighboring village of Singjelic, while four of the Army's armored troop carriers were seen less than a kilometer from the edge of Aracinovo.

A thick column of smoke rose from the western side of the town.

Following a similar threat from Hoxha to attack the capital and airport almost two weeks ago, the Army called a halt to its offensive against rebel-held villages in the hills north of Skopje to allow humanitarian aid into the combat zone there.

Both Army and rebels said before government peace talks started last week they would continue to hold fire to give the political negotiations a chance to succeed.

The attack on Aracinovo effectively ends that truce.

The peace talks—between the Macedonian Slav and ethnic Albanian parties in the fragile emergency government of national unity—broke down on Wednesday amid bitter recriminations between President Boris Trajkovski and ethnic Albanian leader Arben Xhaferi. *AFP*

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Bush government backs ban on any form of human cloning

WASHINGTON—President George W. Bush's administration is backing a bill before Congress banning any form of human cloning, including "therapeutic cloning" used in embryonic stem cell research.

Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson and Bush "oppose any and all attempts to clone a human being," Deputy Secretary of Health Claude Allen told a congressional hearing on Wednesday.

"We oppose the use of human somatic cell nuclear transfer cloning techniques either to assist human reproduction or to develop cell- or tissue-based therapies," Allen said.

The congressional testimony marked the first time the new Republican administration has made its position on the controversial topic clearly known.

In 1997 the administration of former president Bill Clinton declared a five-year moratorium on experiments in human cloning funded with public money. But to date there exists no federal law barring private financing of such research.

An international consortium led by Italian gynecologist Severino Antinori, French scientist Brigitte Boisselier and US doctor Richard Seed has announced plans to clone a human being.

A fierce debate has ensued in the United States, with religious groups and conservatives calling for an outright ban on moral grounds, and scientists pressing the administration to authorize federal financing for public research on therapeutic cloning.

The term refers to reproduction of undifferentiated stem cells from embryos, seen as very promising by researchers because they can develop into a variety of specialized cells—blood, muscles, neurons—and could one day be used to repair or replace organs or to treat diseases that are incurable at present.

US lawmakers currently have two bills on human cloning before them.

The first, the Human Cloning Prohibition Act introduced by Kansas Senator Sam Brownback and Florida Representative Dave Weldon, would criminalize any attempt to create a human embryo through cloning, whether for reproductive or therapeutic ends. The bill calls for sentences up to ten years in jail and a $1-million fine for infractions.

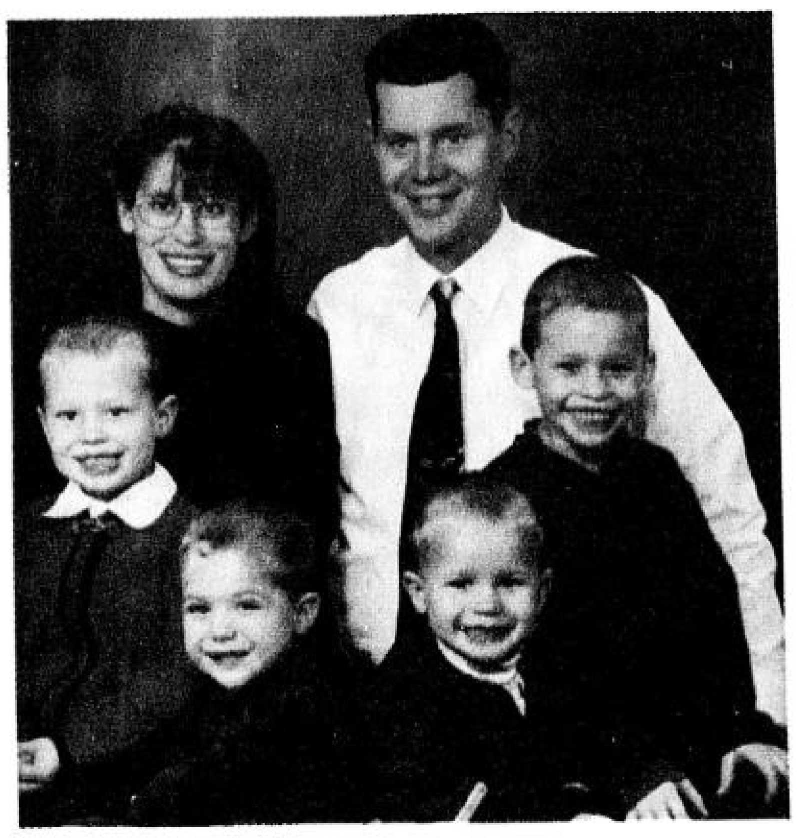
"We support this bill's intent of banning human cloning," Allen said.

A second bill, the Cloning Prohibition Act introduced by Representative James Greenwood of Pennsylvania, is less restrictive. It bans only reproductive human cloning—using cloned cells to start a pregnancy.

The Greenwood bill thus leaves the door open to cloning human embryos for medical reasons—which Allen called "a major concern of this administration."

But Bush favors stem cell research using adult tissue.

In a recent letter to an anti-abortion group Bush wrote: "I oppose federal funding for stem cell research that involves destroying living human embryos. I support innovative medical research on life-threatening and debilitating diseases, including promising research on stem cells from adult tissue." *AFP*



DEPRESSION AND MURDER
Andrea Yates (in glasses), a 36-year-old woman allegedly suffering from postpartum depression and facing charges that could bring the death penalty, confessed to killing her five children in their Houston home on June 20. Photo is a copy of a Yates family portrait from Nov. 2000, before the birth of the Yates' 6-month-old girl. REUTERS

N. Ireland's hate-filled streets erupt

BELFAST—Police said yesterday that 20 officers were hurt in a second night of Northern Ireland sectarian violence, which is undermining the province's already fragile peace process.

The Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) said 10 gunshots were fired at police, though none hit their target, while petrol bombs, rocks, paint bombs, and blast bombs were also thrown.

The RUC said calm returned to the streets by about 4:20 a.m. yesterday. Three people were arrested.

Late Wednesday night 39 police were injured as crowds several hundred strong clashed in what was described as the worst sectarian violence in the province for three years.

It was sparked when Roman Catholic residents in the Ardoyne area of north Belfast complained they were being prevented from walking their children to school through a Protestant neighborhood.

The row turned to violence involving both communities with police caught in the middle attempting to keep the two sides apart.

The clashes heighten tension at a time when politicians are making increasingly forlorn efforts to rescue the 1998 Good Friday peace agreement from collapse.

David Trimble, leader of the moderate Ulster Unionist Party, a cornerstone of the peace deal, has threatened to resign at the end of the month unless republican paramilitaries start handing over their weapons.

A return to the terrorist war that raged for 30 years before the peace deal, however, is considered unlikely.

But Trimble's resignation would set back the search for a lasting settlement and could mean the collapse of the power-sharing government, one of the most important dividends from the Good Friday agreement. *AFP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Tight Japan immigration

TOKYO—Japan's government yesterday decided to pour more resources into combating illegal immigration following the deportation fiasco last month involving a man believed to be the son of North Korean leader Kim Jong-il. The Cabinet approved a plan by the immigration bureau to boost the number of immigration officers at airports nationwide which serve international flights, an official from the justice ministry said. The authorities also agreed to install 21 detectors capable of identifying skillfully forged passports, he said. *AFP*

Cambodia coup plotters

PHNOM PENH—A Cambodian court yesterday sentenced three US citizens to life imprisonment and handed out jail terms to 27 others found guilty of involvement in a failed coup to overthrow the government. The three Cambodian-Americans, two of whom are being tried in absentia, are the self-confessed leaders of a group known as the Cambodian Freedom Fighters (CFF) which made a pre-dawn assault on government buildings in November. Judge Sok Sethamony also ordered two Cambodians to be jailed for life on charges of terrorism and raising an illegal armed force. The US citizens were found guilty of similar charges, but were accused of conspiring to commit terrorism. *AFP*

Suharto son's taxes

JAKARTA—The Indonesian government wants to collect around $282,000 in unpaid taxes from the fugitive youngest son of former president Suharto but has lost the paperwork, a minister said yesterday. "He has not paid $282,000, but he is very clever . . . not only is he missing, even the documents of the supreme court ruling have disappeared," Finance Minister Rizal Ramli said. The loss of the original supreme court ruling on the back taxes meant that the government had no legal power to force Hutomo "Tommy" Mandala Putra to pay up, he said. Tommy, a 38-year-old millionaire businessman, has been on the run since Nov. 3 of last year when he failed to turn himself in to serve an 18-month jail sentence for graft. *AFP*

3,000 Taiwan firms closed

TAIPEI—Nearly 3,000 factories were shut down in Taiwan in the five months to May as more businesses shifted their manufacturing operations to China amid an economic slowdown, economic officials said yesterday. A total of 2,911 plants were closed down in the January-May period, up about 70 percent from a year ago, according to the economic ministry. "The current economic downturn has prompted many Taiwanese manufacturers to move their facilities to the mainland for lower labor and land costs," a ministry official said. *AFP*

Congratulations to
Sen. Loren Legarda-Leviste
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Ariel salutes Sen. Loren Legarda-Leviste, recognized by the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) for her outstanding efforts as a fierce advocate of ecological issues. Her hard work and dedication to environmental projects such as Luntiang Pilipinas has earned her both the UNEP Global 500 Award and the title "ecological warrior". Our hats off to a genuine example of world-class female excellence!

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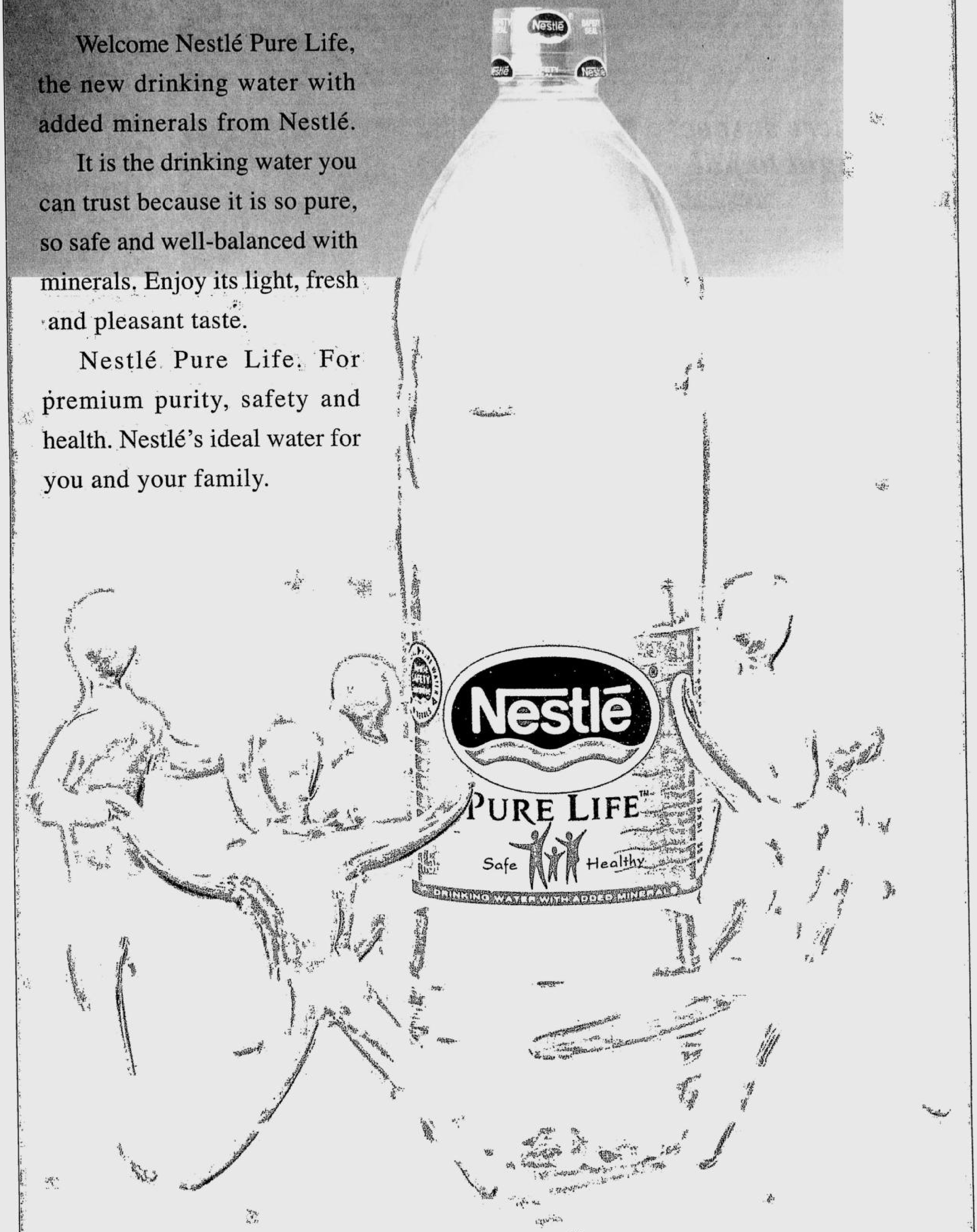
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Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

Chinese engineer seized in Cotabato

COTABATO CITY—Even as the government is trying to solve a resurgence of kidnappings in Luzon and Basilan, another foreign national was seized in North Cotabato.

Supt. Ruben Abapo, North Cotabato police chief, said Chinese national Lang Sung Kiang, in his early 40s and assistant project manager of the Chinese-owned Earthworks construction firm, was believed to have been taken at 4 p.m. Wednesday along a highway in Matalam town, also in North Cotabato.

Abapo said Lang was on board a hired taxi on his way back to Carmen town, where the firm maintains an office, when the gunmen flagged down the car.

The car was recovered in a remote village hours after he was reported missing. It was not known whether the taxi driver was also taken by the gunmen.

But other reports said Lang, who is also the firm's supply officer, was on board a passenger L-300 van from Davao City.

Upon reaching Matalam, an undetermined number of gunmen flagged down the van.

The Malitubog-Maridagao (Malmar) irrigation dam is one of the national government's flagship projects in Central Mindanao aimed at irrigating some 12,000 hectares of farmlands in the region.

Construction started in 1994 but frequent clashes between government troops and Moro Islamic Liberation Front rebels disrupted the project. It was supposed to be completed in 1997.

In 1997, seven workers of the Shinsung Corp., a South Korean firm that started the project, were snatched by the rebels who demanded that guerrillas be employed as the firm's workers.

Since then, the project, which sits on vast tracts of land claimed by the MILF as its territory, had been the site of Army-MILF skirmishes, claiming hundreds of lives from both sides.

Suspended for several years, the construction resumed during the regime of deposed President Joseph Estrada with the National Irrigation Administration as the lead agency.

Several sub-contractors, both local and international, joined the construction after then President Estrada ordered the fastracking of the Malmar project to support his dream of making Mindanao the country's food basket.

The project cost P2.2 billion. *Edwin Fernandez and Charlie Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Massacre suspect brought to jail

AFALLA greets a different kind of family at the Tuguegarao City jail.

BEN MOSES EBREO

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—"I am too tired now." That was all massacre suspect Danilo Afalla, 40, could say Friday when he faced the media for the first time here after he was deported by US authorities two months after he took flight and went into hiding in Miami, Florida.

Afalla, who was charged with four counts of parricide for allegedly bludgeoning to death his wife and three children, briefly talked with reporters here. He said he has yet to consult his lawyer before issuing a statement.

He arrived in Manila from Los Angeles Thursday morning.

He was presented to the media at 8:30 a.m. Friday by Chief Supt. Dominador Resos Jr., Cagayan Valley regional director, and lawyer Norman Taloza, National Bureau of Investigation district chief.

Also presented was Mario Santos, Afalla's classmate and one of the witnesses in the parricide case against Afalla.

"He's angry with me. That's for sure," said Santos when he talked with Afalla before the media briefing.

Afalla complained about his numbed right cheek which, he said, was hit by a hard object during the deportation procedures conducted by US immigration authorities in Florida.

"Maybe that's the reason I'm having mental lapses," he said as he was mobbed by residents and municipal employees when he arrived here.

From the provincial police office here, Afalla was taken to the municipal jail.

A day before he arrived here, Afalla's 74-year-old mother, Modesta, told the INQUIRER that her family had no choice but to leave her son's fate to God.

"*Makaammon ni Apo Dios ka dayta* (It's all up to God)," the mother said in Barangay Don Mariano Marcos here Thursday. "What else can we do, it's all over."

After suffering from a mild stroke recently, she said she was advised by her daughters not to think and talk about the incident so as not to put her health at risk.

To ease the pain and to recover from the trauma, they said they have stopped reading newspapers, watching TV and listening to the radio.

"It is only now that I learned Danilo would be brought home," she said.

Afalla, a cruise ship mechanic, was charged with the killing of his wife Aperacion, 40, and his children Cheenie Claire, 11, Mark Anthony, 9, and Michael Angelo, 5.

Their decomposing bodies were dug up in a shallow grave in a riverbank in Bayombong on April 18. A day after the discovery of the bodies, Afalla fled to the US where he was arrested near his apartment in Florida last month.

Police said they would not give Afalla special treatment once he is brought by the NBI here for custody. They said they are still waiting for the issuance of a commitment order from Judge Alexander Bulut of the municipal circuit trial court in Bayombong to decide where Afalla, who is facing parricide charges, would be detained.

The commitment order would determine whether Afalla would be detained at the municipal jail or at the provincial jail.

"For the meantime, he will be under our custody until such order will be issued. We do not treat him as a VIP (very important person) person but as a usual suspect in a crime," said SPO3 Oscar Callangan, chief investigator of Bayombong police.

Supt. Romeo Hilomen, provincial police director, earlier said the pieces of evidence the police had gathered pointed to "passion killing."

An autopsy report on the bodies showed the victims had been severely beaten. There were no signs, however, that they were shot or stabbed. *Ben Moses Ebreo, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Nur calls detractors 'traitors'

COTABATO CITY—A furious Nur Misuari, who insists he is still the recognized leader of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), lashed at some of his trusted lieutenants in the MNLF, calling them traitors.

Speaking before a crowd of about 5,000 supporters, mostly MNLF fighters in their uniforms, at the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) complex here Monday, Misuari said a Malacañang official was behind the MNLF leadership crisis.

A 15-member executive committee in the MNLF was recently organized to replace Misuari because of the numerous positions he has in the government that allegedly makes him ineffective in running the affairs of the organization.

Aside from being MNLF chair, Misuari is also ARMM governor, Southern Philippines Council for Peace and Development Chair, and special envoy to the Organization of Islamic Conference.

The move to replace him as MNLF chair, Misuari said, was plotted by Presidential Adviser on Special Concerns Norberto Gonzales, whom he said was responsible in deceiving some key MNLF officials into declaring a mutiny.

Misuari's information bureau provided the INQUIRER a partial list of the 15-man body that the ARMM governor branded as "traitors to the cause of the Bangsamoro."

Misuari lamented that the President had allowed her name and her government to be used by Gonzales in his attempt to divide the MNLF by discrediting his leadership here and abroad.

He said Gonzales also heads the Jesuit clergy-backed Philippine Democratic Socialist Party of the Catholic Church. *Charlie Señase, Edwin Fernandez and Allan Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

More power co-ops face Napocor fate

LAOAG CITY—Faced with the impending privatization of the National Power Corp., an electric cooperative here is setting its sights on an alternative power generating plant that can provide cheaper electricity to local consumers.

Since 1987, the Ilocos Norte Electric Cooperative (INEC) has been laying the groundwork for a fuel-fired diesel power plant to be erected in Currimao town which can generate up to 50 megawatts or way above the province's total power requirement.

Ilocos Norte's energy requirement is almost the same as Shoemart's popular department store chain, the SM Megamall at 25 to 30 mw.

Eduardo Arzadon, manager of Inec's member services department, said Inec and the Ilocos Norte Power Corp. (INPC) are close to finalizing a power purchase agreement that provides the terms and conditions for the operation of the power plant.

The plant, with three generating units, will be erected on a 40,000 square meter lot owned by Inec.

Under the agreement, the INPC, represented by Franz Komischke, president of the German firm MBH Power International, will put up the plant through a build-operate-transfer scheme.

The plant will be transferred to Inec after 25 years at no cost, Arzadon said during a forum aired over government radio station dwFB-Radyo ng Bayan here.

Inec said the parties could immediately sign the agreement as soon as they iron out contentious provisions, two of them are the power cost and variable charges.

The agreement provides that the power to be sold by the INPC to Inec will be, at any time, P.07/kilowatthour lower than the Napocor rate or (if Napocor is privatized) as specified by independent power producers.

Arzadon admitted that determining the cost of variable adjustments is derailing the final stages of the agreement.

He said the cheaper power rate to be charged consumers would come as a relief.

But the cost of variables, which come in the form of cost of operation and prevailing fuel rates, will be another story, he added. *Cristina Arzadon and Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Pampanga folk warned of flooding

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—The Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council (PDCC) has advised residents along the banks of the Pampanga River to move to higher grounds as tropical storm "Emong" moves closer to Northern Luzon.

PDCC action officer Emmanuel Guanlao said Friday those living along the banks of the Pampanga River should not be complacent just because Emong has not directly hit Pampanga.

He said floodwaters in Nueva Ecija flow toward the Pampanga River. "So even if we don't have the rains here in Pampanga, if Nueva Ecija is under storm signal No. 1 or 2, the water of Pampanga River would still rise and endanger those living along its banks," he said.

Guanlao also advised residents of low-lying areas to take care of their children, saying most flood casualties in the previous years were young children who either drowned or were electrocuted.

As a preparation for this year's rainy season, he said the PDCC would reconstruct the municipal disaster coordinating centers in all towns in the province, especially in areas prone to flooding.

"This is extra necessary to the towns with newly elected mayors. We have to assess and help them in their capability to respond to vulnerable communities," he said.

Guanlao said the PDCC would organize two sets of rescue teams who would be equipped with rubber boats in the second and fourth districts of the province where flooding occurs.

Records from the PDCC and the Department of Social Welfare and Development regional office here show that some 500,000 people in about 200 barangays of this province suffered from the effects of floods last year.

The Department of Agriculture also disclosed that 246,229 metric tons of palay worth about P715 million was destroyed in Central Luzon last year by typhoon "Seniang" alone.

In Negros Occidental, 66 persons were displaced yesterday after heavy rains brought by Emong destroyed four houses and damaged nine others in Barangay Tagda, Himamaylan town.

Jose Mari Vargas, action officer of the Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council, said the residents took shelter in evacuation centers in the village after strong waves and wind whipped their houses along the shoreline.

He said the level of the water in rivers in northern and southern Negros reached critical levels but did not overflow Thursday and yesterday. *Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk with a report from Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Health care meet turns into buck-passing

BY MA. DIOSA LABISTE
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—A heated meeting between heads of big private hospitals and executives of the government-owned Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (Philhealth) on Wednesday did not solve issues but succeeded in bringing the two sides talking to avert a crisis threatening the local health care industry.

The meeting, the first after four months, was presided over by Dr. Jose Medardo Labordo, Philhealth's senior vice president for insurance operations.

It aimed to diffuse the tension between Marilyn Geduspan, regional manager of Philhealth, and the representatives of the regional chapter of the Private Hospitals Association of the Philippines (PHAP).

Hospital heads took to task Geduspan for her attitude in dealing with hospitals and the delay in the reimbursement of hospital claims.

Geduspan, on the other hand, blamed hospital heads for the discrepancies in the reimbursement forms, which caused delays in the disbursement of funds.

The passing of the buck between Geduspan and PHAP representatives was the general theme in Wednesday's meeting that was witnessed by reporters.

Earlier, the directors of the Iloilo Mission Hospital (IMH) and Iloilo Doctors Hospital (IDH), threatened to shut out members of Philhealth.

Elmer Pedregosa of the IMH and Jose Mari Muyco of the IDH said that unless PhilHealth sped up the processing of their claims and straightened its procedures in dealing with accredited hospitals, they might refuse to admit patient-members of the government health insurance program.

In a position paper in April, the PHAP in Western Visayas complained of delayed payment of claims, increase in the volume of unpaid claims that were returned to the hospitals, the tedious use of logbooks and submission of monthly mandatory reports, and the "unfriendly atmosphere" at the Philhealth regional office.

Aside from Pedregosa and Muyco, other members of the PHAP that prepared the position paper were Sr. Norma Manzano of the St. Paul's Hospital; George Abueg, Bacolod Doctor's Hospital; Rufo Gasapo, Bacolod Sanitarium; Joaquin Torre of Dr. Pablo Torre Memorial Hospital and Dolores Abadiano of the Capiz Emmanuel Hospital.

The seven hospitals have a combined bed capacity of about half of the 2,000-bed capacity of 35 private hospitals in Western Visayas.

Labordo said more talks between private hospital heads and local Philhealth officials could eventually lead to a smoother relationship between them.

But Pedregosa said nothing came out of the Wednesday dialogue because Geduspan refused to admit that Philhealth procedures went wrong.

The only positive result was that they started talking to each other, he said.

During the dialogue, Manzano said hospital heads felt that Philhealth was "unfriendly and strict," a charge which Geduspan denied.

Geduspan instead blamed the office's security guard whom she said could be ill-trained in dealing with visitors. She later apologized for the impression she and her staff had created.

Geduspan also blamed the delays in reimbursement to omissions and discrepancies in the forms submitted by hospitals. These included the lack of original receipts, discrepancies in the membership forms, absence of signatures of hospital representatives and failure to state the "complete diagnosis" of patients.

A hospital is given 60 days to submit a reimbursement claim after the discharge of its patient. Philhealth has another 60 days to process it.

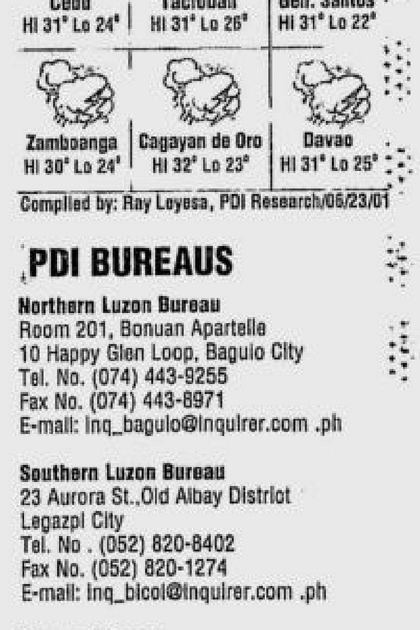
Philhealth is a government health insurance program implemented after the passage of Republic Act 7875 in 1995 or the National Health Insurance Act.

It replaces Medicare of the Social Security System and Government Service Insurance System.

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Extreme Northern Luzon will experience stormy weather. Coastal waters will be rough to very rough. The rest of Northern Luzon will have rains and gusty winds and coastal waters along these areas will be moderate to rough. The Western sections of Luzon and Visayas including Palawan will experience monsoon rains while the rest of the country will be cloudy with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE PAGASA



Compiled by: Ray Loyesa, PDI Research/06/23/01

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2 militiamen slain in guerrilla attack

BACOLOD CITY—Two militiamen were killed Wednesday night when suspected New People's Army guerrillas attacked an isolated military detachment in Barangay Sikatuna, Isabela town, 78.2 kilometers south of here.

Killed were Estelito de la Rita and Jimmy Paskil, both members of the Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Unit (Cafgu) assigned to the detachment of the Charlie Company of the Army's 11th Infantry Battalion.

De la Rita was killed on the spot after he was shot in the head by a sniper. Paskil died in the Riverside Medical Center in Bacolod on Thursday from bullet wounds in the head and in the left shoulder.

Col. Alphonsus Crucero, the Army's 303rd Infantry Brigade commander, said the assault may be in retaliation for the raid conducted by the 11th IB on the rebel camp in Barangay Amin, also in Isabela, on June 18.

He said he received reports that many of about 40 members of the NPA Larangan Gerilya 1 unit members were wounded during the firefight.

Among them was Ka Randy, NPA squad leader, who managed to escape despite his wounds, with the help of his comrades.

Initial military reports said a certain Ka Ole, Ka Randy's assistant squad leader, led about 20 rebels who attacked the 11th IB detachment in the evening of June 20.

The report said the NPA rebels fired at the huts where the militiamen were staying inside the detachment. The soldiers and the Cafgu members immediately returned fire. The exchange of gunfire lasted for 15 minutes.

The rebels withdrew, leaving behind several bullet slugs of automatic assault rifles, M-203 grenade launchers and M-60 machine guns, military reports said.

"We are expecting more (attacks) from them," Crucero said.

Lt. Col. Ivan Samarita, 11th IB commanding officer, described the attack as a "last ditch effort" of the NPA in central Negros Occidental to prove that it was still a force to reckon with. *Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

SHOOTING AFTERMATH

Farm workers win first round

DAVAO CITY—The Department of Agrarian Reform Adjudication Board (Darab) has ruled in favor of farmers demanding land in an estate owned by the Worldwide Development Corp. (Wadecor).

The Darab dismissed for lack of merit the motion for reconsideration filed by the management against the claimants.

The Darab affirmed the order of former Agrarian Reform Secretary Horacio Morales to qualify the Wadecor workers as agrarian reform beneficiaries.

The resolution was sent to its DAR regional office Monday night, the last day the farmers had given Agrarian Reform Undersecretary Efren Moncupa to address the demands of the farmers after a farmers' picket in front of the DAR office was shot at by security guards, wounding at least eight of the protesters.

But even if the Wadecor case had been resolved, the protesting farmers continue to haunt DAR officials with yet another demand: To resolve the case of another group of farmers, this time at the Checkered Farms.

The protesting farmers vowed not to leave the gates of the DAR until the government finally distributes the land to the beneficiaries.

Jhonny Pilapil, chair of the Checkered Farms Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Association, Inc. (CFARBAI), said the motion for reconsideration was filed by the management on orders of the Provincial Agrarian Reform Adjudication Board (Parab). The order sought to qualify the 131 beneficiaries for the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program.

Pilapil said the resolution of the cases does not mean it is the end of their plight. He said the government should implement the order and issue Certificates of Land Ownership to the claimants.

The case has been pending with the Darab and the office of the agrarian reform secretary for four years now.

Pilapil said the Checkered Farms management has only included 112 beneficiaries and excluded other workers in the estate.

Each member of the CFARBAI is claiming .9 hectare of land on the 281-hectare estate owned by Checkered Farms.

The CFARBAI demanded that DAR should implement the order of Adjudicator Damian Aniñon to include all the 131 beneficiaries in the list of those who would be given land.

It also asked DAR to allow eight families, who were ejected by the management, to return to the plantation.

The farmer-beneficiaries also demanded the ouster of DAR regional director Rodolfo Inson and the appointment as acting regional director of either Eduardo Suaybaguio or Joselito Libres, the executive director of Philnet, a non-government organization coordinating the farmers' demands. *Ayan Mellejor, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

'Jueteng' man's house attacked

DAGUPAN CITY—A jueteng maintainer here admitted that he managed illegal gambling activities in the city for 10 years until his house was fired at and riddled with bullets early Thursday.

Dong Gomez told radio station dzSD that he suspected the current financier and maintainer of the illegal numbers game here were behind the attack. Nine bullet holes pierced the gate of his house while another bullet passed through the living room.

"I admit that I was a jueteng maintainer for 10 years but when my financier lost in the mayoral race in the May 14 elections, the position had been taken away from me," he said. He did not identify the financier.

Gomez said new jueteng operators in the city are trying to frighten him because "they suspected me of sabotaging the game."

"Their collection is very low and they accused me of harassing the bet collectors to remit to me their collections because I was still conducting draws. But the truth is, I have no involvement in jueteng anymore," he said.

He said when the new jueteng financier took over last May 3, he continued to be the maintainer until May 23. He said another person from Masbate replaced him and he stopped all activities connected with jueteng.

Gomez identified the new financier as a Chinese businessman who owns a restaurant in the city. *Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

DENR clearance on quarry operation questioned

By Mei Magsino
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

BATANGAS CITY—People living near the Calumpang River in this city are questioning the issuance by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources of an environmental compliance certificate (ECC) to a sand quarrying operation that has been going on illegally in the protected river.

Records show that the DENR Regional Office IV issued on March 5 an ECC to the sand and gravel extraction project of the Tarnate Enterprise of Ramon Tarnate Jr. at Barangay Poblacion West here.

The Calumpang River has been declared a protected river by virtue of City Ordinance No. 3, S. 1998.

Ironically, the city government also issued a permit on May 2 to one Vicente Tarnate, reportedly a godfather of Ramon Tarnate Jr.

The new mayor's permit had replaced the business operation from "quarrying" to "sand and gravel extraction."

City legal officer Teodulfo Deguito said the business permit issued by the mayor's office only complied with the papers presented by the proprietor.

The endorsement certification by Provincial Environment and Natural Resources officer-in-charge Pancracio Alcantara stated that sand extraction is necessary in the Calumpang River to prevent flooding of nearby areas during heavy rains.

The INQUIRER tried to see Alcantara more than ten times but he was always out of office.

In the past, the overflowing of the river had caused deaths and destroyed property.

Residents living near the river attributed this to the quarrying.

Ray Edonga, 37, of Sitio Duluhan, Barangay Cuta, who lives near the river, said the sand quarry does not operate in the middle of the river to make it deeper, but extracts sand from both sides.

This, he claimed, has made Calumpang River shallower, causing it to overflow when the rains come.

The Tarnate quarry, according to Ramon, has been operating since 1960 and has been helping the sand miners, who also live near the river, earn a living.

He also said the quarry has helped the river get deeper and prevent flooding.

Batangas Gov. Hermilando Mandanas has also endorsed the quarry.

The governor's barge has allegedly also been used by Tarnate to mine the sand.

"The problem is that the quarrying in Calumpang River is illegal," Edonga said.

Affected residents said they would file a petition before the City Mayor's Office, the Sangguniang Panglunsod and other concerned government agencies to contest and revoke the ECC and the permit issued by the illegal quarrying operations.

Aside from Sitio Duluhan, other areas endangered by the quarrying are Sitios Maipa and Journal, where more than 800 families live.

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INQUIRER Visayas
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Advice for new mayors

LUCID INTERVALS

Rowena V. Guanzon

FIRST time mayors will not have a clear idea of what they plan to do, unless they have prepared for it. Being mayor is not just a political office, it is a management job.

Mayors who have been cited for their good governance and creativity had the advantage of managing non-government organizations or businesses before they took office, but that's not a requirement for being a good mayor.

For all first timers, it's a "learn-on-the-job" thing. You make fewer mistakes if you have good advice, a sense of right and wrong, and a bright and honest lawyer if you are not one. The last one is dispensable. As we know, some mayors turned worse because they had bad lawyers. Some people will say because they had lawyers, period.

Especially if one is taking over from a former opponent, there are lots of things to be undone. But do not be engrossed with undoing things. Rather, focus on doing good. Whatever works for you is the best way. That goes without saying that whatever you do as mayor you must always follow the law.

I was mayor of Cadiz in 1986 and served till 1992. I write of my experience so that other new mayors may learn from it. I was practicing law in Makati prior to the Edsa Revolution, and came home to lead the campaign for Cory Aquino against one of the most powerful warlords in the country, our congressman, the late Armando Gustilo.

I took over a City Hall that had an almost empty treasury, barely able to pay salaries, with undisciplined employees, and a list of casual employees as long as the Ilog River. The first thing I did was look at the financial situation of the city and studied the trial balance. With the help of a retired auditor, I was able to make a plan of my priorities. Yet I made it clear to the department heads that I trusted them as professionals and they should deliver, and they did.

Many new mayors, because they have no other choice, can be manipulated by their department heads. One good way of testing your department head's advice is to ask "why?" and "where? Show me." There is no substitute for studying. That way you are confident of your decision. After all, the buck stops with you.

Before I finished my term, Cadiz City had one of the best Urban Basic Services Program that focused on maternal and child health.

We had zero polio ahead of other cities. We had one of the most effective child immunization programs in the country. Cadiz also became a first class city in terms of income. We did not raise taxes. Instead, we improved the efficiency of collection.

Local governments are lucky now that their Internal Revenue Allotments increased after the Local Government Code was passed. The code also gives them more elbow room for transactions unheard of 20 years ago such as the floating of bonds and build-operate and transfer projects. The former mayor of Victorias, Negros Occidental, Severo Palanca, successfully floated bonds for a housing project.

If I were a new mayor, however, I would start from the beginning. What is it that poor people need the most?

It is a matter of economics, but it is also a matter of compassion.

I was very technical when I began my term. That's because of my educational background (economics and law) and former work as a practicing lawyer. But when I went to all the barangays and saw how poor rural people and children are, my shoulders dropped. I sighed, almost in helplessness. I saw how children were so thin, and how the poor ate dried cassava because they could not afford rice.

I was the first Cadiz mayor to reach Barangay Hiyang Hiyang, and no wonder. It was so far they say you only have to pay 10 centavos to reach the clouds. There was no road, and when you get to the barrio, the fastest way to reach the school was to cross a river from above, on a wooden plank about two feet wide. I looked down, it was like 20 feet below. Some children went ahead, showing me how easy it was to cross. I was reputed to be a very courageous woman, but I said, "next time," and the children laughed.

Another place that had no access to government services was the island of Lacawon, mainly because it is privately owned. When I was told that many children drowned when the bancas that ferried them to school sank, I had a Grade 1 class created and built a school for it. With the help of the Department of Education Culture and Sports (DECS), now they have classes up to Grade 6.

If you are a new mayor of a small town, or a city not in Metro Manila, chances are your town's or city's income will never be enough for all your people's needs.

Have a plan for three years. First things first. Health, water, maternal and child care, education, livelihood. Especially in Negros, which is largely agricultural and dependent on sugar, young people need new skills so they can earn a living.

I bet if you are a new mayor, you have a long list of applicants for jobs now because City Hall is the largest employer in your town or city. Even those who campaigned against you are probably in the list.

Listen to good advice. Listen to the people's needs. Study. You have three years, but time flies. Before you have learned the ropes it's time to campaign again. Work hard. That, by itself, is campaigning for the people's trust.

Like all politicians, you want to stay in power. But more than basing your decisions only on that motivation, have compassion. And be honest.

Coconut tree narrates sad state of RP polls

BY ALEX PAL
Dumaguete City

MOST passersby would hardly even notice the lone coconut tree in front of the office of the Commission on Elections in Negros Oriental, for it blends perfectly with the dilapidated building and its unkempt surroundings.

But while one may be tempted to think nothing of that seemingly harmless, helpless tree, it actually stands as a monument to the slow pace of resolving election protest cases in the country.

The story goes that at the height of hearings in 1999 of a protest case filed by losing Canlaon City candidates shortly after the 1998 elections, a Comelec official from one of the towns of Negros Oriental planted a coconut seedling in front of the Comelec provincial office.

The election registrar was heard to have challenged fellow employees to a bet that the coconut tree would already start to bear fruit before the Comelec could hand down a decision on the Canlaon case.

Two years later, the case has remained pending. The tree has grown to about six feet, reinforcing the popular notion that defeated candidates who are thinking of filing cases may just be in for a long, costly and, probably, useless exercise.

Provincial election supervisor Rogelio Benjamin said that as far as he could remember, the Comelec has decided on not a single electoral protest case in Negros Oriental.

Among the cases is the protest filed by Herminio Teves against then Gov. Emilio Macias II in 1988. Macias went on to serve for three terms. Both Macias and Teves are now on their second terms as representatives for the second and third districts of the province.

Former Dumaguete City mayor Lorenzo Maxino also protested the victory of then Mayor Agustin Perdices in 1988. Perdices went on to serve for three terms. He rested for three years (one term) and is now returning to City Hall as the newly elected mayor.

UNLIKE this coconut tree, which would grow to maturity with very little supervision or care, Philippine elections appear to have no hope of ever maturing. ALEX PAL

Burden on Comelec

Another 1988 case was filed by Hector Villanueva (a namesake and cousin of Hector Villanueva, who was the press secretary during the Ramos administration) against Mayor Genaro Goni of Bais City.

Goni has died since, passing the mayoral post to Francisco Villanueva, who served for three terms in office.

Hector Villanueva, a cousin of Francisco, is now finally the mayor of the city. He won in the last elections.

If all these cases have remained unresolved after 12 years, there is little chance that the case filed in 1998 by Canlaon's losing mayoral candidate Bobby Jalandoni would be decided anytime. Jalandoni has accused election officials of misreading votes in favor of the winner, Mayor Jesus Ereccion.

Benjamin said election protests took a very long time to be resolved because the Comelec, with only seven commissioners, is the only court authorized by law to handle such cases in all the cities and provinces in the country.

The regional trial courts handle election protest cases involving towns, while those involving district representatives are handled by the House of Representatives Election Tribunal.

The outspoken election official said it might be easier for the Comelec and the candidates if the poll body is freed from the burden of having to decide on election cases.

The Comelec, Benjamin said, did not make laws but merely issued resolutions. "If Congress really wants reforms in the electoral system, then it should pass laws that will improve the election process."

Unfair law

Assessing the recent political exercise, Benjamin said the law that was passed by Congress titled "Fair Elections Act" was actually unfair because it only benefited the incumbent congressmen and senators.

While Congress approved the lifting of the ban on political advertisement, he said, its members also changed the law limiting the posting of election paraphernalia only in Comelec poster areas.

The new law made it legal for candidates to paste their posters, stickers and streamers anywhere, to include even private property.

Congress also changed the requirement of putting the name of the campaign donors on the posters, to simply putting the name of the beneficiary of the donation.

"This was apparently done to encourage more donors to contribute because they would no longer be identified," Benjamin said.

Congress also rewrote the law on the filing of a candidate's statement of contributions and expenses. Failure to file the statement used to be a criminal offense; now, it is just an administrative offense.

Benjamin lamented that former Comelec chair Christian Monsod submitted several proposals to Congress to improve the electoral process. "The proposals were about two inches thick, but not one was acted upon by Congress," he said.

"Let us pray that our legislators will have some sense of decency when they pass laws, especially election laws," the Comelec official said.

Philippine seas yield more and more shark species

BY ALEX PAL
Dumaguete City

SCIENTISTS studying the Sulu-Sulawesi Sea have announced the discovery of two new shark species and raised hopes of finding other life forms that have been hidden from the rest of the world for millions of years.

Dr. James Last of the Australia-based Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO) said the two species have already been documented and their discovery will be officially announced soon in a scientific publication.

Last, a co-author of the book Sharks and Rays of Australia, was invited to this city recently to facilitate the 2nd Shark Specialists Workshop initiated by marine scientists who are working for the Philippine-based Shark Biodiversity and Conservation Project.

The project is jointly undertaken by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and the Silliman University Marine Laboratory (SU-ML). The project undertakes the only study of its kind in the Philippines.

This initiative was implemented in the Visayas and Mindanao by marine scientists from the SU-ML in coordination with the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, the State Polytechnic College of Palawan and the Siquijor State College.

In the course of the study, the scientists collected over 500 specimens belonging to about 83 species in 24 families of sharks, skates, rays and chimaeras.

The scientists believe that there may still be over 10 shark species that are yet unknown in the Sulu-Sulawesi Sea, in addition to the 200 species of sharks and rays in Philippine waters.

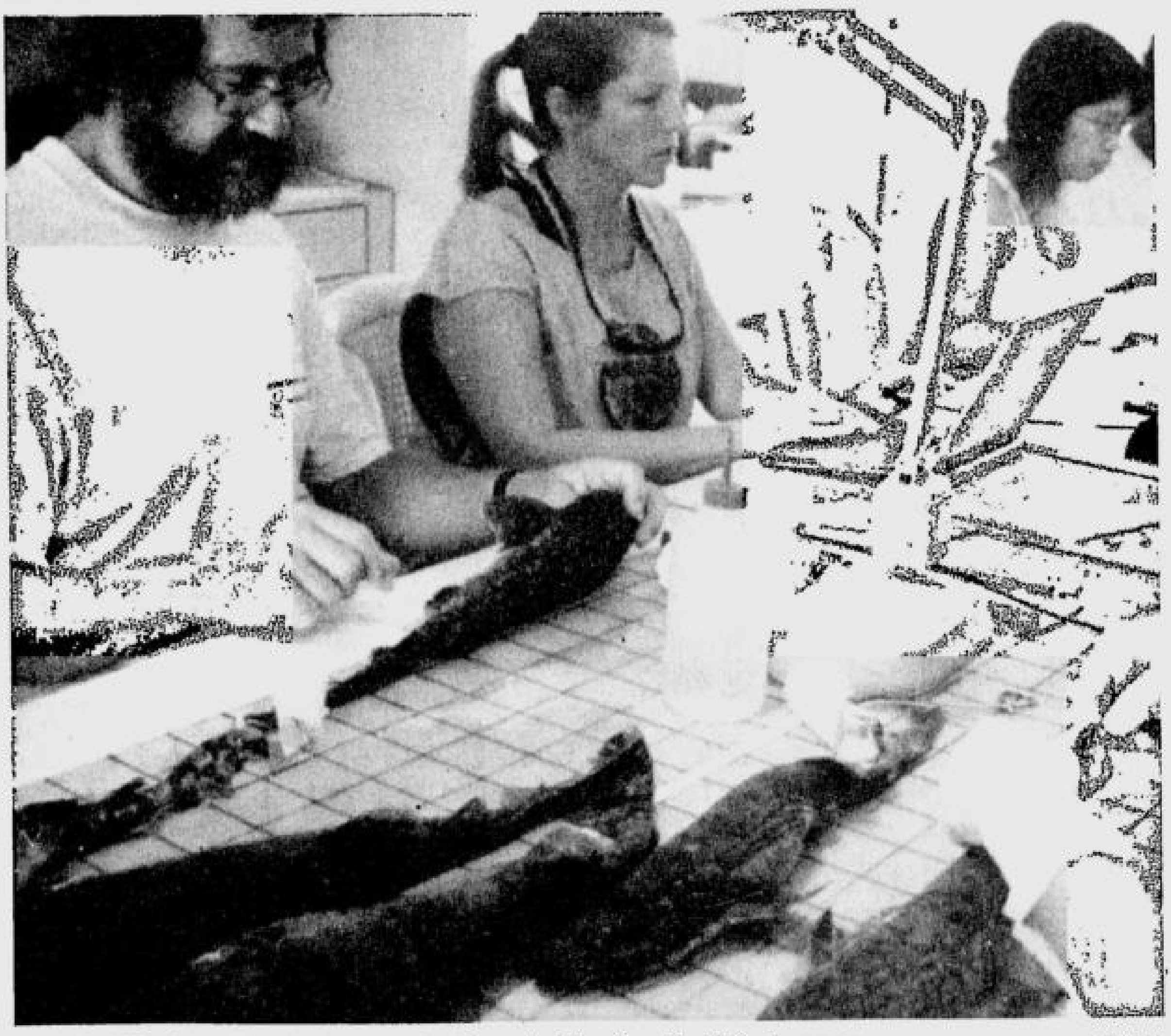
About 40 species already have Provision Record Status (PRS). This means that they either are new species or are newly discovered ones in the Philippines.

He said the three-year research, which started in 1998, may also see the resurrection of "a handful" of species which have been unseen for about 50 years.

Fish market finds

In explaining the find, Last said there are sharks, rays and skates—collectively called "Elasmobranch"—that are only found in the Philippine seas because of the complicated waterways which surround the archipelago.

Last further explained: "Some parts of the Philippines are separated by very deep trenches. These are very deep trenches—it's like a big lake whose surrounding waters are very shallow. Some fish stay (in waters) between 500 and 700 meters (deep) and they don't come up so they can't get out. They have been going around the Sulu Sea for millions of years until they turned into different animals through genetic exchange(s)."



SCIENTISTS take a closer look at new shark species they found in Philippine seas. ALEX PAL

But the marine scientists who undertook the study did not have to dive that deep to gather their samples.

Most of these previously scientifically unknown shark species they actually were able to find in fish markets in the coastal villages that are close to the Sulu-Sulawesi Sea.

"We've been eating them before we knew that they're here," said Andrea Oliver, a senior program officer of the WWF-United States Marine Program who joined Last as a co-facilitator of the workshop here.

The WWF, Oliver said, has been doing projects in regions that are rich in biodiversity. She said she hopes that the baseline data gathered from these projects would lead Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines to develop strategies for shared stock.

Oliver, after the workshop, also turned over the WWF shark collection to the Philippine National Museum through Assistant Director Cecilio Salcedo.

Last said there has not been any major study done on Philippine fishes. "We know more about the moon and Antarctica than we know about deep sea fishes in the Philippines," he said.

He said it is important to know and identify the vast resources in the Philippine seas so that proper management strategies could be made.

"If you don't know what you've got, you can't manage it," he said.

Also facilitating the workshop were Dr. John Stevens of CSIRO and Dr. Leonard Compagno, curator of the South African Museum.

Gloria: Stop new 'Edsa Tres' plot

(From page A1)

zation threat.

"All we have to do is beef up these forces as necessary, depending on the possible level of trouble expected. The structure is in place. We're ready to respond any time," Adan said.

In her luncheon speech, Ms Macapagal called for vigilance to stop the supposed plot, saying "the times are hard, they are even perilous."

"This week, our nation is facing another test because there are people who are planning to repeat what happened on April 25 up to May 1," she said in Filipino.

She added that long-term solutions to the problems of poverty and social justice must be achieved so that "these challenges would no longer recur."

Reliable sources

Tiglao said the information on the alleged plot was "quite reliable" and came from the "highest levels of government."

"But we're confident that the best-case scenario would be traffic destabilization along Commonwealth (Avenue in Quezon City, where the Sandiganbayan is located)," he said.

Adan said the supposed plot, if carried out, would not be as violent as the May Day attack.

"We have no details, but based on what transpired in the past, you can expect some rallies, some noises," he said.

Tiglao concurred, saying that "based on our own intelligence reports, the warm bodies and force for such a destabilization plot are not so strong at all."

He added: "In the May incident, a big part was rebellion in aid of election. The elections (are over). We believe that those planning such destabilization plots wouldn't be able to muster enough force or even moral ascendancy to even make it a real threat now."

Tiglao also said the administration was being "doubly alert" because of the unresolved hostage crisis in Basilan.

Ms Macapagal first spoke of the supposed planned unrest last Tuesday when she said the kidnapping of Mary Grace Cheng Rosagas "could be part of a sinister plot to destabilize my administration."

On Thursday, she went on nationwide TV and radio and said she had apologized to the Cheng family. But she stood pat on her claim that a destabilization plot was afoot.

The loyalist rallies at Edsa were marked by incendiary speeches by Estrada allies, including Senators Miriam Defensor-Santiago, Juan Ponce Enrile and Gregorio Honasan, ex-police chief Panfilo Lacson and ex-Ambassador Ernesto Maceda.

Some of them were later charged with rebellion, but the government is not actively pursuing the cases.

The government had also sought to dismiss the charges filed against 147 Estrada loyalists, most of them poor people, who were arrested in connection with the attack on Malacañang.

The President herself had made conciliatory moves toward Estrada, visiting him at a detention facility in Laguna and at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City.

No reports

Supt. Rafael Alcantara Cardeno, chair of the Young Officers' Union, yesterday said that while the forces linked to the previous administration had the capability to destabilize the present one, the YOU had yet to receive reports to that effect.

He said the administration's statements on supposed plots were aggravating the situation.

According to Cardeno, certain people in the opposition have contacts with criminal elements "because of their previous line of work," but the YOU does not have information that these groups are using criminals to undermine the government.

He said the YOU did not even see the possibility that the recent rash of robberies and kidnappings were linked to a destabilization plot by the opposition, until administration officials pointed this out.

"Now, everyone is talking about it," he said.

Army Capt. Baron Cervantes, also of the YOU, said the opposition might be recruiting supporters from the military and the police.

But he said this was "natural," adding that while the opposition could wage a destabilization campaign, it could not topple the administration at this time.

"The situation might look similar to 1986 (when the Marcos dictatorship was toppled), but the environment is different," Cervantes said.

He said the military and police were now wary of supporting coup attempts because of the failed putsches in the late 1980s.

"The situation then was ripe (for a military takeover), but the coup (attempts) failed. What more today when we have a different environment?" he said. *With a report from Philip C. Tubeza*

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Kidnap syndicate busted

(From page A1)

chief of the Philippine National Police, and Col. Victor Corpus, Armed Forces intelligence chief, were the sources of the "false information."

New recruits

In a news conference, Lina identified the other arrested suspects as Juanito Magbanua, Adriano Cortez, Leonilo Maldeba, Luisito Gatmaitan, Eladio Gatmaitan, Luillermo Litao, Julio Reguntон, Pablo Litao, Gerardo Litao and Armando Roque.

Some of the 11 suspects were said to be new recruits.

Director Gen. Leandro Mendoza, PNP chief, said the arrests solved the kidnappings of four people whom he identified as Judy Chan, Benedict Leong, Marco Sia, Joselyn Tan-Cabrera and businessman Miguel Siscar.

Leong, a Singaporean, and Sia were abducted on March 14 in Sta. Maria, Bulacan, while Chan, a Hong Kong national, was seized on April 26 in Tondo, Manila.

Cabrera was kidnapped in Guiguinto, Bulacan, on May 11 and Siscar who was abducted in Plaridel, Bulacan, on June 5.

Mendoza said the success of the police operations, which started June 19 and ended three days later, was due to the cooperation of the victims' family.

Combined operatives from the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, Bulacan police and PNP-Special Task Group raided the safehouses of the suspects in Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, and in Metro Manila.

Over the past six months, 47 Chinese-Filipinos had been kidnapped in Metro Manila alone, according to Sen. Loren Legarda.

Legarda said the number of Chinese-Filipino kidnap victims was disclosed to her by representatives of the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Ethnic Chinese-Filipinos and overseas Chinese are the regular targets because kidnappers consider them to be more willing to pay a ransom than seek police help.

But a growing trend in recent months has been to target other nationalities.

Four Singaporean businessmen had been kidnapped in one month.

The British Embassy confirmed yesterday on its website that at least three British nationals had been kidnapped.

"Three British nationals have been kidnapped so far this year and held for periods of up to three weeks," the embassy message said in a travel warning urging "heightened security awareness against the threat of kidnapping in Manila."

A Chinese-Filipino publication, Tulay, said a Briton whose ear was lopped off by kidnappers was freed last month after meeting a ransom demand for P10 million.

Lina not to blame

Amid the wave of kidnappings, Malacañang yesterday said Lina should not be blamed for providing the President with inaccurate information that forced her to apologize to Robert Cheng.

Cheng is the father of Rosagas and owner of Uratex Philippines Inc., manufacturer of plastic furniture and foam products.

"(The information) was based on a very fluid situation and Secretary Lina had to report it to the President," presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao told a news briefing.

"No one can blame Secretary Lina for reporting immediately to the President what he had received so far."

On Wednesday, the President met with and apologized to the Cheng family.

Tiglao said it was "out of decency" that the President apologized.

Chinese-Filipino community leaders yesterday said they had appointed a lawyer to liaise with the police to help them combat a wave of kidnappings targeting the ethnic group.

Dante Go, president of the Chinese-Filipino Business Club Inc. (CFBCI) said the lawyer would "represent the community because these kidnapping cases are happening so fast."

He said the reluctance of relatives of Chinese-Filipino kidnap victims to call the police was understandable, and should not be used to rationalize the public perception that they were inviting these attacks with this posture.

"You have to understand also the situation of the victims," Go said. "That's why we sometimes encourage the victims to cooperate."

Go spoke to reporters after calling on Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes and Mendoza to hand over a P1-million grant for government casualties in a campaign against Abu Sayyaf bandits holding two dozen-plus hostages in Basilan, including two Americans.

Go said it was "a very difficult" time for everyone, and said the police forces had room "to improve their intelligence."

"We are not blaming anybody," he said.

Drilon said he would "activate the Senate intelligence oversight committee," which was formed to look into the use of intelligence funds.

Breakthrough, caller ID

A breakthrough in the case of the four kidnap victims came when the suspects decided to use a landline phone in negotiating for the ransom of one of their victims, a member of the operating team told the INQUIRER.

The source said they coordinated with the Philippine Long Distance Company (PLDT), which immediately provided them with several units of digital caller ID, which enabled them to get the phone numbers used by the suspects.

The numbers led the PNP agents to trace the location of the suspects' safehouses.

The suspects, who were surprised by the raid, did not put up a fight. At least three of them immediately admitted participation in the four kidnappings and even named the other gang members who are now being hunted by the police.

The four victims have positively identified the 12 arrested suspects who were immediately charged with kidnapping for ransom before the Municipal Trial Court of Plaridel, Bulacan.

The suspects were arrested on the strength of the warrants of arrest that the court had issued.

Seized from the suspects were two .45 caliber pistols, a shotgun, a .25 caliber pistol, three cars said to have been used as the group's getaway vehicles, and four cellular phones.

The rising tide of criminality has prompted the National Bureau of Investigation to announce yesterday a "top-to-bottom" revamp.

The revamp will affect 14 high-ranking bureau officials.

NBI director Reynaldo Wycoco signed an order for the reshuffle on June 18, five days after the ban on the transfer of government personnel imposed by the Commission on Elections expired. *With a report from Jerome Aning*

Gov't, Moro rebs agree to ceasefire

(From page A1)

group's 23-year rebellion.

The signing of the ceasefire agreement was reported to President Macapagal-Arroyo from Tripoli by Edgardo Ermita, presidential adviser on the peace process.

Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao quoted Ermita as describing the new ceasefire agreement to be forged between the two sides as "durable."

Tiglao said the ceasefire would take effect immediately after the signing of the agreement and "will last until a complete political settlement with the MILF is reached" by the government.

"We see this as a very positive point, that peace could be finally at hand with regard to the biggest Muslim secessionist group," he said.

Tiglao said the agreement also provided for the conversion of MILF camps into economic development zones and the rebuilding of Mindanao.

Tiglao said the accord would even allow MILF forces to occupy a number of small camps in Central Mindanao.

MILF forces were driven from their major training bases last year, including their main base of Camp Abubakar, in a bloody military campaign by Ms Macapagal's predecessor Joseph Estrada.

"We have occupied these camps, so we are maintaining our forces there," Tiglao said.

The presidential spokesperson said the ceasefire would allow for the return of refugees, mostly Muslim non-combatants who were displaced by last year's military campaign.

The truce would allow the two parties to plan a "joint development effort, which means the MILF for the first time ... will be helping the existing government in developing these conflict-ridden areas," Tiglao said.

Tiglao disclosed that an observer team from Malaysia, Indonesia and Libya will be coming to the Philippines to see to the implementation of the ceasefire agreement.

Meeting with Gadhafi

He said Ermita also informed Ms Macapagal of his meeting last Wednesday with Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi at his tent in the desert.

Gadhafi told Ermita that Libya was "condemning all secessionist movements" as not good for brother Muslims.

The Libyan leader also said he and his country "see kidnapping as un-Islamic and a criminal act."

The peace talks are being hosted by the Gadhafi International Foundation for Charitable Associations, headed by Gadhafi's son, Seif el-Islam.

The talks with the 20,000-strong separatist group and increased funding for Mindanao are top priorities of Ms Macapagal, according to Tiglao.

The government panel is headed by Vice President Teofisto Guingona and the MILF panel by its military chief Mohamad Murad.

The MILF is a 1978 splinter of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), which signed a peace treaty with Manila in 1996.

The 1996 accord gave Muslims a measure of self-rule in four provinces in Mindanao. It was brokered by the Organization of Islamic Conference countries including Libya and Indonesia.

Besides the MILF, the government is negotiating peace with communist rebels. But the government suspended the talks with the communist-led National Democratic Front in Oslo to protest the killing of Cagayan Rep. Rodolfo Aguinaldo by the New People's Army. Talks are to resume in the middle of August.

While it is talking peace with the MILF and the NDF, the Macapagal administration is conducting military operations against Abu Sayyaf bandits, who have abducted hostages, including Americans, in exchange for ransom payments. *With a report from AFP*

3 more hostages freed

(From page A1)

Servando also said the military's constant attacks on the known positions of the Abu Sayyaf bandits had "affected" the supposed negotiators' activities.

He said the military was closing in on the suspected bandit lairs, and was employing small-unit tactics and large-scale troop movements.

"It is just a matter of time before the military reaches its objective," he said.

'Convoy'

The Associated Press reported that a convoy of eight motorboats had slipped through a Navy blockade around Basilan but that the military said it did not know if the bandits and their hostages were aboard.

It quoted Servando as saying that military helicopters spotted the single-file column of boats leaving Basilan at sunrise on Wednesday and dispatched a Navy patrol to catch them.

But the motorboats were gone by the time the Navy ships arrived, the report said.

Servando, however, told the INQUIRER that he was not the source of the information.

Asked to comment on the AP report, AFP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan said he would check on it.

"But as you know, there are so many pump boats and sea craft plying the coastal waters of Basilan. And just a few days ago we were able to intercept two boats loaded with MNLF (Moro National Liberation Front) regulars," Adan said in a joint news conference in Malacañang with Rigoberto Tiglao, spokesperson for President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"So the Navy is there. We're continuing to put up a blockade, but as I said, there are hundreds of sea craft plying the shorelines. A lot of them (carry) fishermen, in fact," he said.

Adan said the troops were still scouring the upper part of central Basilan in pursuit of the bandits and their American and Filipino hostages.

"Contact could be made any time, that's what we can say," he said.

He also said the military was confident that while the hostages had been split into groups, they were all still in Basilan.

The Abu Sayyaf is believed holding up to 26 hostages—three Americans and four Filipinos from an original group of 20 abducted from the Palawan resort; four Filipinos from a Lamitan hospital; and 15 Filipinos from a plantation in Lantawan town.

Of the Americans, one, Guillermo Sobero, is presumed dead although his body has yet to be found.

The alleged intermediary told Reuters that Sobero was dead.

"He was hit (by bullets) in a fight with the troops and he was ill ... They abandoned him," the intermediary said.

P1.4 billion

The President yesterday summoned AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Diomedio Villanueva, Defense Secretary Reyes, National Security Adviser Roilo Golez and other military officials to a two-hour command conference in Malacañang.

Tiglao said the conference tackled the military operations against the Abu Sayyaf, the kidnap gangs targeting mostly wealthy Chinese-Filipinos in Manila, and an alleged destabilization plot against the administration. *(See story on Page A1.)*

According to Tiglao, Villanueva sought an additional budget of P1.4 billion for the military's anti-insurgency operations, including the pursuit of the Abu Sayyaf in Basilan.

Tiglao said the President approved the request. He quoted Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin as saying that this would "not affect the budget problems" of the government.

He said this was because the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. was set to remit last year's earnings of P1 billion in dividends to the government.

Adan said Villanueva told the President that the local communist movement remained the No. 1 threat in the country, and that the secessionist Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the Abu Sayyaf bandits were considered threat groups.

Of the military's P1.4-billion request, P276.3 million will be allotted for internal-security operations, including the maintenance of the militia force.

Adan said the military was seeking the recruitment of 10,000 more militiamen on top of the 10,000 who were trained last year.

Tiglao said militia support was needed to help the military in hinterland areas including Basilan.

While the country has a "very efficient military force," rugged mountain areas where the bandits are hiding are "so big, that it is physically impossible to control every inch of the hinterlands," he said.

Adan said the rest of the requested amount would be used for the fuel needs of the military as well as the maintenance of its aircraft, ships and equipment.

Torture

Servando said the three people whose severed heads were found Thursday in Tuburan, Basilan, were tortured before they were killed.

"There are traces of torture. Based on the report, these are mutilated heads," he said.

Servando said none of the heads belonged to soldiers because all of the soldiers involved in the military operations against the Abu Sayyaf in Basilan had been accounted for, including those killed in firefights.

He also said that since the military had received no confirmation that any of the heads belonged to a foreigner, "we have to assume that these are all Filipinos."

Still, Servando said, only a visual identification of the severely decomposed heads had been made. Forensic investigation has to be conducted by the police, he said. ***Reports from Alexander M. Young, PDI Mindanao Bureau; Christine Avendaño and Juliet L. Javellana in Manila; Reuters; AP***

Will Loren hype lead to Palace?

(From page A1)

former broadcaster and leading candidate of the 1998 senatorial elections may have a political agenda that includes winning Malacañang.

The advertisements include one for a detergent; a Philippine Information Agency public service commercial on planting trees; and a print endorsement of the Mandarin Hotel in Makati City.

But Legarda said people who insist that she is harboring presidential ambitions could be in for a big surprise.

"I may catch them by surprise by retiring early in 2004 so that I can get back at those who speculate 'she'll run for President,'" the senator said.

"'I may suddenly retire, and many will wonder, 'why?'" she added.

Besides, Legarda said, she isn't "a politician at heart. I'm a worker, but not a politician. Maybe I'm a leader, but not a politician."

Senate watchers have noted that Legarda's press relations people have also been going full steam in churning out press statements on virtually every topic of political interest.

Legarda admitted that all that publicity, all at the same time, might have been a bit too much.

But she added that only the detergent ad counted as a true-and-blue commercial, while the one about the trees was a public service ad for the Luntian Pilipinas, a tree-planting program she started in 1998.

She said she did the Mandarin ad for free at the request of friends managing the hotel.

As for the press releases, she said these were nothing new, noting that her office had been churning them out since she started her Senate term.

"I've been coming out with press statements from day one on every issue where I think I should comment—environment, conservation and tourism—on issues close to my heart," she said.

She said that in politics, little things make her happy, like winning awards for her environmental causes and getting her pet bills on the environment passed.

"But to run for higher office, I don't aspire for that, there are lots of problems there," she said.

But asked whether there would be no President Legarda in the future, the senator replied: "Nobody can tell the future, not even Madame Auring."

Abu Sayyaf goes hi-tech

(From page A1)

leased, the military wouldn't really mind.

Aside from utilizing satellite telephones to contact relatives and negotiators, the Abu Sayyaf also text the panicky relatives of their victims in Manila who may be moving heaven and hell to meet the bandits' demand.

"We have received reports that they use cell phones, text messaging for contact," Servando said.

The emissaries are determined to strike a deal that they chat with and e-mail their counterparts even at local Internet cafés, said another source.

Old-fashioned way

However, just like in the movies, there are secret meetings of go-betweens and negotiators to clinch deals at darkened corners of local hotel lobbies here. This is where ransom money had been known to change hands.

Sources said that negotiations for the release of hostages Kimberly Jao and Francis Ganzon were closed in one of the hotels in this city. Radio reports also said that the two hostages were handed over to a Malacañang aide in one of the local hotels, after being escorted to Zamboanga by Abu Sayyaf sympathizers.

"We have received some raw reports," Task Force Zamboanga chief Col. Alexander Yano earlier admitted. So, he ordered troops deployed near hotels and coffee shops.

Gates still richest; Forbes lists 3 Pinoys

(From pageA1)

off the list entirely.

Nevertheless Gates—with a net worth of $58.7 billion, down from last year's $60 billion—easily retained his No. 1 position on Forbes magazine's 15th annual list of the world's billionaires.

Microsoft's Paul Allen slipped behind Buffett after the net worth of the "Oracle of Omaha" increased $4 billion, to $32.3 billion. Allen, who was tied with Buffett for third place last year, had $30.4 billion, according to list results released Thursday.

The billionaire club swelled to 538 members this year, up from 482 last year, because Forbes decided for the first time to include all billionaires. Previously, the magazine counted only "working rich" billionaires to differentiate between those who ran businesses and those who simply lived off their wealth.

Because of the new entries; some year-to-year comparisons are difficult. For example, the overall number of billionaires would have dropped this year under the old parameters, and Forbes wasn't able to provide a comparable number. The problem should be resolved when next year's list appears, said Kerry Dolan, a senior Forbes editor who co-edited the rankings.

"What we decided to do is give the people what they want," she said. "Everybody wants to know who are the richest people in the world, and how they rank."

The rankings appear in the July 9 issue of Forbes, which reaches newsstands today.

Oracle Corp. founder Larry Ellison, last year's second richest man, saw his net worth plummet from $47 billion to $26 billion. But that was still good enough to make him No. 4. German retailers Theo and Karl Albrecht had the fifth spot and Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Alsaud, a global investor from Saudi Arabia, came in sixth.

Three heirs of the Wal-Mart fortune created by founder Sam Walton took the No. 7 through No. 9 spots, and two more Waltons tied for 10th place. Several Waltons who made the list this year were not included last year because they were no longer active in the business.

The stock market shakeout over the past year hurt several on the list. "Call it the worldwide humbling of the billionaires," the magazine said.

For example, the net worth of Japanese software magnate Masayoshi Son, founder of Softbank, dropped from $19.4 billion to $5.6 billion, putting him in 55th place. Last year he was eighth.

Amazon.com's Jeff Bezos saw his net worth fall from $6.1 billion to $2 billion, still good enough for a tie for 234th.

German media mogul Thomas Haffa, whose conglomerate owns the rights to the Muppets, dropped from the list, however, after his net worth dropped from $4 billion to $250 million.

The list was set using share prices and exchange rates as of May 21.

Asia's richest

Hong Kong tycoon Li Ka-shing is the richest man in Asia while three Filipinos—Henry Sy and family, Lucio Tan and Jaime Zobel de Ayala and family—hang on to the list of 73 billionaires in the region.

With $1.3 billion, Sy, who made his fortune in shopping malls (Shoemart) was 387th on the Forbes list.

Tan, the richest Filipino last year as head of the group that includes Asia Brewery, Fortune Tobacco, Philippine Airlines and the Philippine National Bank, lost almost a billion in the past year.

He is now down to $1.2 billion, the same worth of Zobel de Ayala, whose fortune dropped from $1.6 last year.

Two Filipinos dropped out of Forbes' billionaires' list this year, probably because of the depreciation of the peso against the dollar. They are George Ty of Metrobank, who had $1.5 billion last year, and Tan Yu, who used to have a billion. Forbes did not list their worth this year.

Several moguls in the region were knocked down a notch or two by the bursting tech bubble and stock market turbulence, the magazine said.

Masayoshi Son, the founder of Japanese Internet holding company Softbank, was worth $76 billion in mid-2000 and is now worth just $5.6 billion. Masayoshi ranked 55th on the list. Last year he was eighth.

Li made his fortune in property, shipping and telecoms to name a few. His wealth grew from $11.3 billion last year to $12.6 billion, the magazine said. Li ranked 18th on the list.

Japan's Yasuo Takei is the second richest Asian and ranked 37th on the list. India's software king, Azim Premji, is the third richest in the region followed by Japan's Kyosuke Kinoshita, Yoshitaka Fukuda, Nasatoshi Ito, Hong Kong's Patrick Wang, Malaysia's Robert Kwok, Singapore's Ng Teng Fong, India's Dhirubhai Ambani.

Of the billionaires in the region, three are from Australia, two from China, 13 from Hong Kong, four from India, two from Indonesia, 26 from Japan, four from Malaysia, one from New Zealand, three from the Philippines, six from Singapore, two from South Korea, five from Taiwan and two from Thailand.

7th consecutive year

The new economy may have slumped but it didn't take Bill Gates down with it.

Gates, 45, topped the list for the seventh consecutive year, losing just four billion dollars over the year, Forbes reported.

In its 15th edition, the list of the world's richest men and women counted 538 people whose combined income was more than $1.73 trillion, larger than the gross domestic product of France.

Eight of the top 10 fortunes belong to Americans; one is German—the Albrecht family that owns Aldi stores—and one belongs to Saudi Arabia's Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal. Inheritors of the US retail chain Wal-Mart fill slots seven through 10.

Fortunes made in media or leisure were the best represented, by 62 megabillionaires. Financiers were next (61) and 57 information technology wizards made the list despite Nasdaq's slide.

Just 37 women feature on the list of 500, with Wal-Mart heirs Alice and Helen Walton making the top 10.

Outside the United States, the world's richest woman is Johanna Quandt of Germany, a scion of BMW.

The Forbes list has been published every year since 1987, compiling data bases, stock market information, interviews and its own research. The complete list is available on the Forbes website at www.forbes.com/billionaires.

Dableo stops Lao

A DAY after grabbing the lead from fellow National Master Rolando Nolte, NM Ronald Dableo halted NM Elias Lao's giant-killing run with a 63-move victory yesterday to keep the lead after six rounds in the qualification tournament for the Asian Continental Chess Championship at the Greenhills Shopping Center. Dableo, the 12th seed in this tournament organized by the National Chess Federation of the Philippines, has 5.5 points after six rounds.

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ◼ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

Mutombo loses vehicle

PHILADELPHIA—As if losing the NBA Finals wasn't bad enough, Dikembe Mutombo has to deal with a stolen vehicle. Mutombo said Wednesday that his Chevrolet Suburban was stolen from the parking lot of a Philadelphia restaurant the previous night. The All-Star center for the Philadelphia 76ers said he was out of town at the time, and somebody else took the black 2000 Suburban to the restaurant. *AP*

Taulava big flop as Mobiline bows to SMB

By June Navarro

SAN Miguel Beer gave comebacking Asi Taulava a rude welcome with a 92-73 shellacking of Mobiline last night in the PBA Commissioners Cup at the Philsports Arena.

All pumped up, Nate Johnson dished out an impressive performance as he propelled the Beermen to their fourth win in five games. Johnson dazzled with 23 points and 25 rebounds.

Mobiline, marking the return of Taulava in its fold, simply crumbled in the stretch as the Phone Pals suffered their second defeat for a 2-2 tally.

Taulava was given the green light to play in the league after securing his recognition papers from the Department of Justice last Thursday but was a non-factor in his debut.

Visibly out of sync after shedding ounces of fat, Taulava scored 8 points and grabbed 7 rebounds for the Phone Pals. He was also outplayed by Danny Ildefonso in the shaded lane.

But what made the return of Taulava more depressing was the disappointing shows of Mobiline import Jerod Ward. Ward scored 31 but shot a dismal 9 of 23 or 24 percent from the floor.

Earlier, David Wood lifted Purefoods to an 89-82 triumph over Pop Cola.

Unstoppable at all angles, Wood dished out another spectacular performance, hitting 32 points and hauling down 16 rebounds to overshadow the exploits of Pop reinforcement Jason Sasser.

Scores

Purefoods 89—Wood 32, Patrimonio 15, Castillo 15, Fernandez 11, Yee 9, Evangelista 6, Feihl 1, Yap 0.

Pop Cola 82—Sasser 37, Juinio 16, Antonio 12, Ballesteros 10, Hatfield 5, Asaytono 2, Morano 0, Abarrientos 0, Jose 0, Bolado 0.

Quarters: 20-19, 37-34, 64-55, 89-82.

RP Open dangles million-peso prizes

THE LOCALS are expected to go all out to win the 86th Philippine Open golf championship which fires off Thursday, June 28, at the Wack Wack east course.

Playing just their fifth big-time event for the year, the local pros shoot for the prize of P1.5 million and a runner-up bonanza of P1.045 million.

The are at least 81 foreigners entered, including some of Asia's top parbusters like Arjun Atwal.

Meanwhile, Metro Bank has become the latest to throw in its support to the Open, which is supported chiefly by Casino Filipino and San Miguel Beer as co-presenters.

The other sponsors are Mitsubishi Motors, Herma Group of Companies, Hanjin Shipping, Bingo Bonanza Corp., Prudentialife Pension Plan, Inc., General Milling Corp.-Granny Goose, Pyramid Construction, Philtec Label, Citra Metro Manila Tollways Corp., Executive Golfers Club, Rudy Project, Marsman, GG&A Clubshares, Aristocrat Lamps, Mizuno, Solahart, Citgo, U-Bix Corporation, Pacsports, Nextel, Hope Luxury Cigarettes, Unilever, Cinnabon, The Riviera Golf & CC, Wallem Shipping, Electrobus Consolidated Inc., Philippine Army, Aguinaldo, Philippine Navy Golf Club, Villamor, G.E. Management, First Georgetown, Toyota Motors and Greens Management.

The third place finisher of the Open gets P589,000, fourth P475,000 and fifth P399,000.

The pro-am is on Wednesday, June 27, with the pro champion getting P50,000, runner-up P40,000 and third P30,000. Another P25,000 in cash awaits the pro of the winning team, P20,000 goes to the runner-up and P15,000 to the second runner-up.

Rain halts Woods' effort; Hoch leads

HARRISON, New York—Rain got the best of Tiger Woods yesterday in the Buick Classic, limiting him to only two shots on the waterlogged Westchester Country Club course.

Scott Hoch, who finished 16 holes, was the leader at 4 under. Gabriel Hjertstedt, who also finished 16 holes, was at 3 under with Mark Wiebe, who played 15 holes, and Brian Watts, who played 14.

Woods, coming off a disappointing 12th-place finish in the U.S. Open, came up short on the par-3 first hole, chipped within a meter (few feet) of the cup and marked his ball as the first of a series of downpours halted play.

Six players were at 2 under, including three—Brad Faxon, Justin Leonard and Corey Pavin—who were among the 37 golfers who finished their rounds.

Fifty-seven players didn't get on the course. They included David Duval, the runner-up to Dennis Paulson in last year's tournament, Vijay Singh, Paul Azinger, Fred Couples, Nick Faldo and Ben Crenshaw.

Els withdraws

ERNIE Els withdrew from the Buick Open before Thursday's opening round with a lower back injury. The South African, a wire-to-wire winner of the event in 1996 and 1997, said he hurt himself while working out Tuesday. He skipped Wednesday's pro-am.

"I really tried pushing the envelope the last two days trying to get ready, but it is in my best interest to give it a rest and allow the problem to heal in order to avoid further injury," Els said in a statement issued by the PGA Tour. *AP*

Gems get revenge; Patriots win anew

Standings	W	L
Negros	5	1
Cebuana Lhuillier	5	1
Andok's San Juan	3	2
LBC Batangas	3	2
Nueva Ecija	2	2
FedEx Laguna	0	2
Davao	0	4
Socsargen	0	4

GAMES TOMORROW
(San Juan Gym)
3:00 p.m.—Socsargen vs Laguna
5:30 p.m.—Davao vs San Juan

By Roy Luarca

THEY double-teamed him, fouled him, hacked him. But in the end, Matthew Mitchell still stood out for the Cebuana Lhuillier Gems.

Mitchell accounted for seven of the Gems' last 10 points as they exacted revenge over the Negros Slashers, 97-93, last night in the Metropolitan Basketball Association First Phase at the Cebu City Coliseum.

In so doing, the Gems improved their win-loss record to 5-1 and gained a share of the lead with their victims in the elimination phase.

The 6-foot-6 Mitchell wound up with 25 points, 12 rebounds and 4 steals and was fittingly named best player of the game. As it turned out, Mitchell had to block out his mind and forgot about the death of his favorite uncle back in Texas, USA, yesterday.

During the post-game interview, however, Mitchell choked on his words, tears welled in his eyes and was in no position to expound on the victory that erased the stigma of the 95-91 defeat dealt Cebu by Negros in the June 3 inaugurals.

Earlier, the Nueva Ecija Patriots banked on a big scoring blitz in the fourth quarter to down the Davao Eagles, 107-93, at the Araullo University Gym.

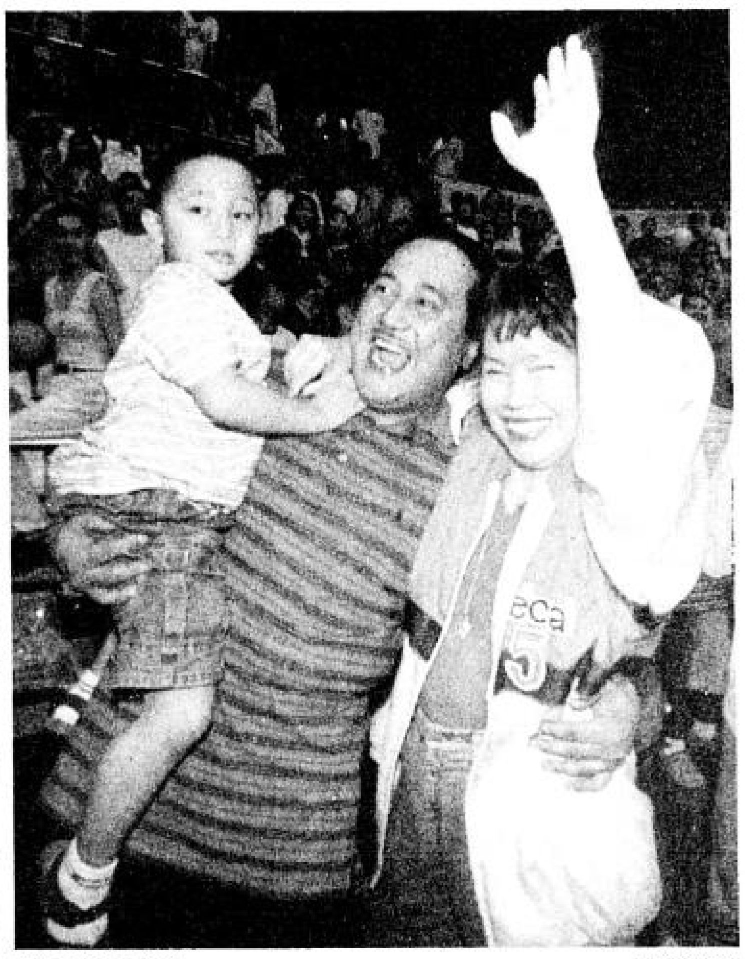
From a tight 79-77 count, the Slashers suddenly unloaded a 16-2 bomb anchored by Francis Aquino to rip the game apart and post their second straight win after dropping their first two.

Adidas Streetball starts today

THE HEART of Philippine basketball comes alive this weekend as over 400 teams are expected to compete in five divisions of the Adidas-Streetball Challenge at SM Megamall.

Action in the two-day NCR elimination tournament starts at 8:30 a.m. today after a short opening ceremony to be presided by Adidas Philippines, the officials, led by managing director John Alonte and marketing and sales director Sonny Nebres.

Some of the best players in the metropolis will be spread in the Seniors (boys 16-18), Juniors (boys 12-15) Girls (18 years and below), Midget (boys 9-11) and the Streetball on Wheels, a new open category.



YELLIN' YU JESS YUSON

Happiness is Welcoat Paints team owner Margaret Yu, who acknowledges the cheers of the crowd with coach Junel Baculi and his son, Jazz, after the Paintmasters beat Shark Energy Drink, 70-62, on Thursday to win the best-of-seven PBL Chairman's Cup via a 4-0 sweep at the Makati Coliseum.

CGU Asian bowling tomorrow

FILIPINO bowlers showcase their skills before the world audience as they compete against the finest players in the region in the rich CGU Asian Bowling Tour which fires off tomorrow (Sunday) at Pearl Plaza's Pearl Bowling Center in Baclaran.

ESPN Star Sports, the world leader in sports coverage, will telecast the two-day event that has gathered the best and the brightest players in the region, including current world No. 1 Sunny Hui of Hong Kong and Singapore's Andrew Fang, gold medalist in the FIQ Asian Zone last year.

But focus will be on the local talents, led by Cecilia Yap and Chester King, whose recent exploits in the international arena sparked hopes of a successful campaign in the $28,000 event serving as the second leg of the eight-stage series culminating in the Grand Slam Finals slated in Singapore later this year.

Yap, 24, broke into the national consciousness after she won the Malaysian International Open crown last April and is expected to spearhead the Filipinos' bid in the knockout format event, which offers ranking points and a chance at wildcards for next year's prestigious US Open.

The organizing ESPN Star Sports will telecast the event live before an estimated 23 million audience around the region starting at 3 p.m. virtually making it the biggest international tournament the country will host in terms of viewership.

Credit that to Philippine Bowling Congress president Steve Hontiveros, who personally assured the CGU Asian Bowling Tour officials of the safety of the participants in the aftermath of a series of kidnapping incidents that forced the bowling body to cancel the country's hosting of a leg last year.

Perfect game

MALAYSIAN Ben Heng scored a perfect game to highlight Thursday's action in the Boysen-PBC 2001 champiobship at Green Valley lanes in Pasig City.

The left-handed Heng posted the 300 en route to a four-game series of 947 in the Class O singles event of the tourney sponsored by Boysen Paints and PSC and supported by Goldilocks, Filkor, Prima Pasta, Bowlmart, Storm Products, The Kegel Co., and Bluekies crackers.

'Copa' scales unprecedented heights

MANILA Jockey Club's ongoing "Gran Copa de Manila" Racing festival continues to scale unprecedented heights as the level of cumulative gross sales at the country's premier race club surged further going into the penultimate day of the five-day racing extravaganza.

"Judging by the promising resurgence in gross sales, we are very optimistic that Manila Jockey Club is well on the threshold of an all-time record gross," said MJCI president Alfonso R. Reyno Jr..

MJCI has officially recorded a total gross sales of P34.8 million for its Wednesday (June 20) and Thursday (June 21) cards, which is roughly P2 million higher than its previous record pace.

On the eve of the big "Gran Copa Day" celebration, racing fans will be treated anew to a spectacular parade of topnotch horse races capped by two top money stakes race—the "SM Prime Cup" and the "San Lazaro Hippodrome Cup," that carries a total guaranteed bankroll of P250,000 each.

The "San Lazaro Hippodrome Cup" has been set as the 6th race of today's 14-race program and will be disputed by seven chargers of matching caliber.

Among the protagonists in the 1,500-meter match-up will be Dynamite Miss, Absolute Power, Fast Eddie, Profitable, Battle Hero, Radiance and Brusko. Winner of the race is guaranteed to receive the top purse of P150,000, with P56,250, P31,250 and P12,500, in prizes respectively for the three other place-getters.

RACING TIPS
AT SAN LAZARO
BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Empire Girl 2. Seiko Shita 3. Golden Figure

Race 2—1. Empowered 2. Dear Elane 3. Defense Minister 4. Priceless Treasure

Race 3—1. Accommodating 2. Prince of Africa 3. Noble Spirit 4. Puzzling Friend

Race 4—1. Great Revelation 2. Timeless Beauty 3. Lady Queen

Race 5—1. Hercules 2. Make Sure 3. Courage 4. Morning Glory

Race 6—1. Battle Hero 2. Fast Eddie 3. Radiance 4. Dynamite Miss

Race 7—1. Brenda Starr 2. Tender Value 3. Unknown Entry 4. Lucky El

Race 8—1. Latin Beat 2. Master Ijhay 3. Power Pack 4. Bogart

Race 9—1. Family Task 2. Flaming Bullet/ Lyonnais 3. Bidang Bida 4. Dragon Strike

Race 10—1. Red Bells 2. Techno Blues 3. Breakaway Artist 4. Tenacity

Race 11—1. Intunda 2. Woman's Task 3. Sir Olizon 4. Turbo Carera

Race 12—1. Ilocandia Slew 2. Morena 3. El Duque 4. Repertoire

Race 13—1. Cuadro de Alas 2. Top Bullet 3. Dragon Lover 4. Ann's Magic

Race 14—1. Dressed to Impress 2. Free Time 3. Parola Sunrise 4. Golden Disc

SPORTS ON TV
COMPILED BY
LORENZO MANGUIAT

BOXING: Primer—Manny Pacquiao vs Lehlo Ledwaba at 11:30 a.m. on RPN 9

MOTOR SPORTS: 2001 F1 Qualifying - European Grand Prix Qualifying at 7 p.m. on Star Sports

SBK Superbike Magazine Highlights at 8:30 a.m. (r – 8 p.m.) on Star Sports

GOLF: PGA Buick Classic, Second Round at 1 p.m. on Star Sports

LPGA Evian Masters Final Round at 6:30 p.m. (r) on ESPN

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

Rahman told to fight Lewis

NEW YORK—Heavyweight champion Hasim Rahman must fight Lennox Lewis next or he cannot fight anyone for 18 months, a federal judge ruled Thursday. US District Judge Miriam Goldman Cedarbaum said Rahman cannot avoid the immediate rematch with Lewis by claiming a contract requiring one is unenforceable.

She said the failure to offer Lewis an immediate rematch would result in irreparable injury to the 35-year-old boxer because it was likely that Lewis would be unable to box after the next two years.

"And even in the next two years, his powers as a fighter will be diminishing," the judge said of Lewis.

Cedarbaum presided over several days of testimony and three hours of closing arguments before delivering her conclusion from the bench in Manhattan late Thursday.

Promoter Don King and his lawyer, Peter Fleming, both declined to comment afterward on behalf of Rahman. *AP*

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Per DTI Permit No. 0763, Series of 2001

Abalos: Implement Building Code rules on parking space A18

METRO

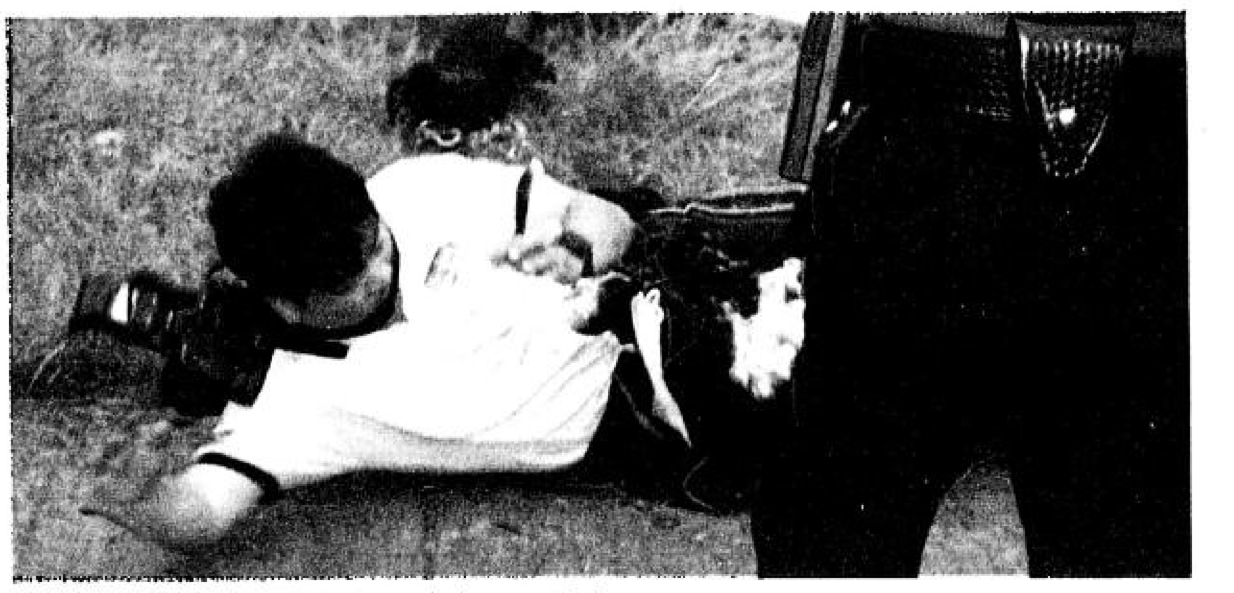
LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Makati BPI robbed; 1 security guard hurt A19

PDI man injured in Atienza 'show' at Mehan Garden

BY JEROME ANING

MANILA Mayor Lito Atienza's hair and pants were slightly singed while an INQUIRER photographer suffered second-degree burns yesterday morning when a burning pile of video *karera* machines and pornographic materials suddenly blazed out of control at the Mehan Garden.



INQUIRER photographer Erik Arazas' shorts catch fire.

Aside from INQUIRER photographer Erik Arazas, 29, three other men were injured—Malaya photographer Rey de Jesus, 52, and bystanders George Acuzar and Al Dumarpa.

City Hall authorities normally make a show of destroying pornographic materials, pirated video compact discs and VHS tapes, and other contraband seized during police operations in Manila.

Yesterday, about 20 newsmen were on hand to cover just an event at the Mehan Garden across the Light Rail Transit's Central Station on Arrocerros Street.

Atienza dropped a burning magazine page to kindle the pile which was doused in gasoline, when the entire heap suddenly burst into flames about 11 a.m.

Some of the photographers who were caught by the flames were just about a step or two away from the burning heap.

PDI/ A18

Floods cause paralysis, suspension, evacuation

BY BLANCHE RIVERA AND CHRISTIAN ESGUERRA

HEAVY rains yesterday submerged flood-prone parts of Metro Manila, forcing scores of families to flee their communities and stranding hundreds of commuters.

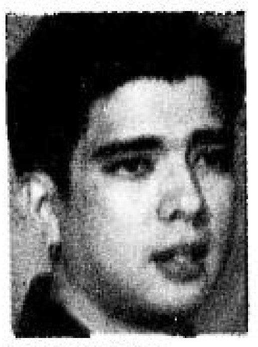
There were no reported casualties.

The rain, which started to pour late Thursday night, prompted the Department of Education, Culture and Sports to suspend yesterday elemen-

FLOODS/ A18

Francis M insists arrest was illegal

BY ANDREA TRINIDAD-ECHAVEZ



MAGALONA

RAP artist and television host Francis Magalona yesterday refused to enter a plea in his arraignment for drug charges at the Quezon City Regional Trial Court.

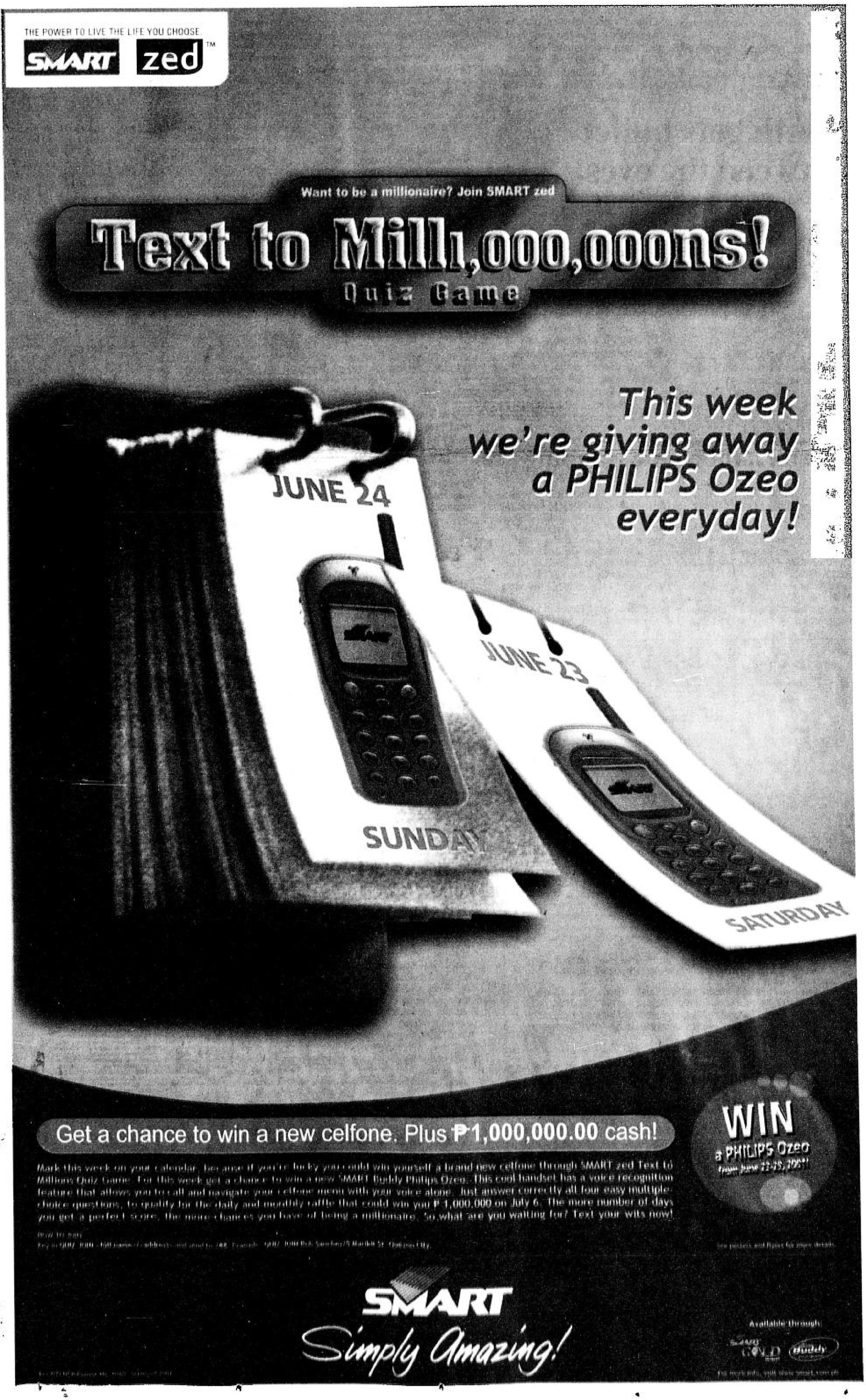
Magalona and his companion Alfredo de los Reyes were arrested on May 29 after

FRANCIS/ A18

Wazzzzzup?

8th day BAR • CAFE ST. FRANCIS SQ. ORTIGAS CTR.	FIRST CIRCLE	SILK JUNE 25/634.7696
AUDIOTORIUM 23 WEST AVE., QUEZON CITY	ROCKIN' REVIVAL	374.2330/373.5574
Bogota WORLD MUSIC BAR & RESTAURANT 574 PEDRO GIL ST., MALATE	PLAYBACK	P300 CONSUMABLE 524.9245/525.5276
Cowboy GRILL BRGY ALMANZA, LAS PIÑAS	THINKERS w/ JOGRAD FEEDBACK	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎801.7644
Cowboy GRILL 1190 ARQUEZA ST., MARINI	HOMOSAPIENS ZEST/HIMIG	P250 CONSUMABLE 9-3 AM/525.1474
Cowboy GRILL REMEDIOS ST., MALATE	J BROTHERS STAY TUNED	P250 CONSUMABLE 9-2 AM/521.8143
Cowboy GRILL NOVALICHES Q.C.	KOOL JACKS MIX-UP/MR. ROXY	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎936.9757
HOLODECK	BIG	FREE ENTRANCE ☎726.8028
KAMPO 2088 #47 WEST AVENUE Q.C.	GLADYS & D' BOXERS D'BOSS/GROOVE	P250 CONSUMABLE 373.5110/373.7181
EXAMINER'S LITE n' LIVE #52 EXAMINER ST., Q.C.	ERASERHEADS ENTITY	P150 CONSUMABLE 373.2221/373.7183
MUSIC WAREHOUSE IN FRONT OF CENTRAL MARKET	NOTY NOTES CHILLWORX	SPECIAL GUESTS 735.1280/735.1405
TIA MARIA'S JUPITER ST., MAKATI CITY	VERSE 2	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎890.4735
TROPICAL FOREST Cafe-Grill-Restaurant TM KALAW LUNETA, MANILA	CRUISIN VERSATILE	PICA-PICA PLATTER P200/MON-FRI
OTHER PLACES		
Jer's REAL CALAMBA, LAGUNA	ALTER EGO (FULL FORCE)	P 50 ENTRANCE ☎(0917)378.7303
PartyPlace SAN FERNANDO, PAMPANGA	ENTITY	BLANDYAK/JUNE 29 PAROKYA/JULY 7

SATURDAY, JUNE 23 912-8983



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Safe to use cell phones here, say Camanava police

By Christian V. Esguerra

THERE ARE no longer cell phone snatchers in the cities of Caloocan, Malabon and Valenzuela and Navotas town, collectively known as Camanava. Or so the Northern Police District claims.

NPD director Senior Supt. Vidal Querol yesterday said more police officers have been deployed in key areas in these places.

He said the increased police presence has virtually eradicated cases of cell phone snatching in northern Manila.

"It's now safe to text here," Querol said.

He said he had instructed his men to drive away bystanders who look and act suspiciously in crowded areas.

This has practically prevented incidents of mobile phone thefts, particularly in the areas of Rizal Avenue and Monumento Circle, Querol said.

Heightened police patrol and the rainy season have also freed Valenzuela, Malabon, and Navotas of cell phone thieves, Querol added.

"Now that the rains have come, nobody would dare steal cell phones because these areas are submerged in water," Querol said.

But Valenzuela police chief Supt. Nemesio Neron claimed that he and his men are hunting down a syndicate using minors to snatch cell phones in the city.

Valenzuela police recently arrested a 13-year-old boy for allegedly stealing the cellular phone of Dulce Doma, 19, of Barangay Maysilo, Malabon.

Doma was on board a tricycle on St. Joseph Street in Barangay Malinta, Valenzuela, when the boy approached her in the middle of a traffic jam and snatched her Nokia 5110 phone, police said.

A policeman and several residents saw the snatching and were able to capture the boy, police said.

Youth gets bullet between the eyes

By Christian V. Esguerra

A 17-YEAR-OLD boy was eased out of a love triangle by his rival who shot him right between the eyes in Caloocan City on Thursday, police said.

Lloyd Maestro, an employee of a candle factory, was killed with a shot in the forehead about 9:30 p.m. in Bagong Silang, Caloocan, investigators said.

Police identified the suspect as Victor Calombas, the victim's neighbor in Bagong Silang.

Authorities are still hunting Calombas and two unidentified men who was with him when he allegedly killed Maestro.

Maestro had just visited his girlfriend in Bagong Silang when Calombas and his companions confronted him on his way home, investigators said.

Calombas allegedly took a handgun and shot Maestro in the forehead at close range, police said.

The bullet went out of the back of Maestro's head, cursory examination showed.

The victim died before arrival at the East Avenue Medical Center.

Police theorized that Calombas killed Maestro to settle a long-running feud. Both men were said to have long been at odds after a girl chose Maestro over Calombas to be her boyfriend.

Pa, son nabbed for stabbing

POLICE arrested a man and his son late Tuesday night for allegedly stabbing dead a jeepney driver over an old grudge in Muntinlupa City.

Rafael Africa and his son Louie, both residents of SMI Village, Sucat, Muntinlupa City, were about to escape when members of Muntinlupa police Precinct 3 caught them.

Police said father and son stabbed dead Fernando Verte, 54, a native of Lipa City and resident of Sucat, Muntinlupa. Verte died on the way to the Parañaque Medical Center.

Police said that about 9:30 p.m. when Verte was about to go to sleep, the Africas, armed with kitchen knives, barged into his house and stabbed the surprised Verte in the chest.

Verte's neighbors said they heard him cry for help and they called the police.

The lawmen came just in time to catch the suspects as they were about to flee. The suspects are now detained at the Muntinlupa City police station headquarters. *Nelson F.Flores*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, June 22, 2001
Sacred Heart of Jesus

1st Reading: Ezk 34:11-16
2nd Reading: Rom 5:5-11
Gospel: Lk 15:3-7

Jesus told them this parable, "Who among you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, will not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and seek out the lost one till he finds it? And finding it, will he not joyfully carry it home on his shoulders? Then he will call his friends and neighbors together and say: 'Celebrate with me for I have found my lost sheep.' I tell you, just so, there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one repentant sinner than over ninety-nine upright who do not need to repent."

Commentary:

God's love for his people was already apparent in the Old Testament symbolized by the imagery of the shepherd. When Jesus spoke this parable people knew that he referred to the infinite love that God had for them. Unlike people, with God's infinite love, numbers do not matter. For God, everyone is special and everyone is important. The shepherd leaves ninety-nine sheep in the wilderness to save one single sheep that got lost. This is divine logic. Jesus himself goes even further than the shepherd in the parable. He took on himself the role of the Good Shepherd and gave his life for the sheep.

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the love you showed in Jesus Christ. We ask you to make us also like good shepherds, sensitive to the needs of others.

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: claret@cnl.net; Websites:http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications Inc.) & http://missionaries.claret.org (Claretians in the Philippines)

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CRIMINAL LAW (AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCES)—Conspiracy—Well-settled is the rule that "conspiracy exists when two or more persons come to an agreement concerning the commission of a felony and decide to commit it. The agreement to commit a crime may be deduced from the mode and manner of the commission of the offense or inferred from the acts that point to joint purpose and design, concerted action and community of intent." It is sufficient that at the time of the aggression, all the accused manifested by their acts, a common intent or desire to attack so that the act of one accused becomes the act of all. In the present case, unity of design or objective can easily be inferred from the concerted acts of the three accused. Their conspiracy is evident, notwithstanding the accused-appellant's claim that he did not do anything to the victim. It must be remembered that in conspiracy, evidence need not establish the actual agreement among the conspirators showing a preconceived plan or motive for the commission of the crime. Proof of concerted action before, during and after the crime, which demonstrates their unity of design and objective, is sufficient. Thus, having shown that the three accused were in conspiracy thru their concerted acts, there is collective criminal responsibility since "all the conspirators are liable as principals regardless of the extent and character of their participation, because the act of one is the act of all." [Citations omitted.] [Justice Quisumbing, Second Division, People v. Baltar, Jr., G.R. No. 125306, December 11, 2000]

Digest by R.B. Vera

Abalos: Implement Building Code rules on parking space

By Nelson F. Flores

METROPOLITAN Manila Development Authority Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. yesterday said he would ask all Metro Manila mayors to strictly implement the Building Code, particularly its provisions on parking spaces.

Abalos noted during a recent routine inspection of Metro Manila streets that a number of popular establishments do not have enough parking spaces. He said the absence of adequate parking areas has greatly contributed to the traffic woes of Metro Manila.

"The tendency of car-driving patrons of these establishments is to park their vehicles in the streets in the absence of available parking areas," Abalos said.

He said no building permit should be issued to applicants who fail to show enough parking spaces for their establishments.

He said the proposed parking area should be commensurate to the size and popularity of the establishment.

As an example, he said that a building for a popular hamburger chain with a seating capacity for at least 50 people should have a parking space for at least 25 cars."

He said reports reaching his office showed that Colegio de San Lorenzo on Congressional Avenue, Rembrandt Hotel on Tomas Morato Avenue, the Jollibee and McDonald branches along Tandang Sora Avenue, a number of business establishments along Katipunan Avenue, all in Quezon City; the International School on Kalayaan Avenue in Makati City, a number of restaurants on Meralco Avenue and Julia Vargas Street in Pasig City; and almost all restaurants on Wilson Street in San Juan are just among the establishments that do not have enough parking spaces for their clients.

Abalos said he has already given instructions to MMDA traffic enforcers to issue traffic citation tickets to drivers whose cars are not properly parked. He added, however, that MMDA's effort to de-clog the street of the metropolis would not be successful without the help of the local government units concerned.

GMA shows sign of a good leader

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

OK, President Macapagal-Arroyo made a slip in the kidnapping of the daughter of multi-millionaire Chinoy businessman Robert Cheng. She said it could have been stage-managed to embarrass her government. The President has apologized to the Cheng family.

She was fed the wrong information by her subordinates. But she took full responsibility for the mistake, saying "the buck stops with me."

***

Instead of criticizing Ms Arroyo, don't you think she should be praised for admitting her mistake?

Very few public officials would have done what Ms Arroyo did. It would have been easy for her to blame her subordinates. But she faced the brickbats frontally.

By doing so, she exhibited the mark of a true leader.

***

But some doubts can be validly raised in the kidnapping of Mary Grace Cheng.

One of them is why the armed men who abducted her also abducted her bodyguard and her driver.

Wouldn't it have been easy for the kidnappers to just disarm or shoot the bodyguard and leave her driver behind to report the abduction?

***

The bodyguard was assigned to the Cheng family by retired police general and now Senator-elect Panfilo Lacson when he was still the country's police chief.

The men that Lacson assigned to guard his friends or business associates are not the type who would easily give up without resistance. These men were selected based on their courage.

Remember that bodyguard Lacson assigned to another Chinoy friend to secure the businessman's family? Some armed men tried to abduct the children Lacson's man was guarding. Lacson's man was killed fighting off the kidnappers.

Why was it easy for the kidnappers to abduct the Cheng child when she was being protected by an alert Lacson bodyguard?

***

The report that Supt. Glenn Dumlao executed an affidavit hinting that former PNP chief Panfilo Lacson may have known about the abduction and murder of publicist Bubby Dacer is old stuff.

This writer believes that Dacer's kidnapping and murder had the blessing of Lacson who was also chief of the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force.

Dumlao was in PAOCTF's "dirty tricks" department. He said he was given the task to do surveillance work on Dacer by no less than Lacson's'chief lieutenant at PAOCTF, Senior Supt. Michael Ray Aquino.

Now, Aquino didn't issue any orders that Lacson didn't know about. He was Lacson's alter ego.

***

Here's a tidbit of information about Lacson and Aquino while they were still at PAOCTF, the most powerful police agency during the previous administration: A source privy to the doings of the two officers told me Lacson was looking forward to the 2004 presidential election and had big plans for Aquino.

Lacson planned to run for president in 2004 and had made provisions to make PAOCTF a permanent fixture in the Philippine National Police if he got elected. The source said the ambitious Caviteño was sure of making it to Malacañang in 2004 because of his Chinese-Filipino friends.

Lacson would have made Aquino his replacement—as PNP chief and concurrent chief of PAOCTF.

This piece of information is being passed on the readers for whatever it's worth.

***

Mayor Jinggoy Estrada tried to play the martyr when his temporary liberty was cancelled by the Sandiganbayan for placing a wreath at the Rizal monument in San Juan during the national hero's birthday.

"You know why he did that (place a wreath at the national hero's monument), Mon? He wanted people to know that he was still mayor and in control of the town," a reliable source in the town said.

The source said that the first thing Jinggoy did when he went to his office was to call up all the private contractors who have business dealings with the municipal government. Jinggoy, the source said, reminded them of their "obligation" to him. The "obligation," the source said, was in the form of a monthly fee to him for awarding them municipal contracts.

"Even when he's already under detention he hasn't forgotten the tong collection," the source said.

***

Jinggoy even had the temerity to tell the messenger of a Chinoy contractor that he would have the contract he awarded to the Filipino-Chinese cancelled if he would not meet the obligation to the mayor.

Jinggoy's term expires on July 1 when his half-brother, JV Ejercity takes over.

Kahit na nakakulong na, mayabang pa rin si **Jinggoy!** ***Talagang manang-mana sa kanyang ama.***

***

There is a runaway crime rate in Metro Manila. And part of the reason is that the police chief of the National Capital Region is unable to discharge his functions.

Deputy Director General Romeo Peña—his rank is equivalent to the military's three-star general—is a very sick man. He stays in the hospital most of the time. He forces himself to go to his office in Bicutan now and then but his condition only gets worse each time.

Peña should be relieved immediately. His superiors in Camp Crame should consider his condition.

Maawa naman kayo sa kanya.

Now, if the reason Pena has not been relieved because he continues to hold on to his post, something is suspicious?

Francis . . .

(From page A17)

they were allegedly caught smoking marijuana inside Magalona's black Honda Civic while it was parked near the corner of 4th and Hemady streets in New Manila, Quezon City.

Judge Diosdado Peralta of the Quezon City RTC Branch 95 was compelled to enter a not-guilty plea for Magalona.

Magalona maintained that his arrest was illegal and that he should not have been charged at all. He said he was arrested despite the absence of a warrant.

Branch clerk of court Rose Ferrer quoted Magalona as telling the court that "when I was arrested, it was on mere suspicion and the arresting officers failed to show any warrant. Thus, there was no probable cause to charge me at all."

He also denied the charges and claimed police merely wanted to pin him down because of his celebrity status.

Magalona also accused arresting officers PO3 James Bustinera and PO1 Miguel Cordero of physically assaulting him and of fabricating the charges against him.

He claimed he parked his car because he wanted to send his wife Pia Arroyo a text message on his cell phone.

Magalona said he was surprised when the policemen approached and ordered him and his companion De los Reyes to alight from the car.

When De los Reyes got off the car, the policemen allegedly punched him. This reportedly scared Magalona who sped off in the car.

Police chased Magalona and stopped him after one of the policemen shot one of his car tires.

ATIENZA (right) was almost hurt as flames singed his pants while Malaya photographer Rey de Jesus suffered burns in one arm and the body.

PDI man injured . . .

(From page A17)

Reporters Jimmy Mendoza of radio station dzAR and Mer Layson of Kabayan said two City Hall workers were still pouring gasoline from two one-liter softdrink bottles when the pile burst into a car-sized fireball.

Flames fanned by strong wind licked the victims' limbs and bodies. Arazas, who was only wearing shorts, suffered burns on the left upper leg and arms. The other victims' clothes also caught on fire, searing bodies, legs and faces.

Although Atienza's bodyguards saved the mayor from serious injuries by pulling him away to safety, his pants still caught on fire, singeing him.

City police director Senior Supt. Nicolas Pasinos Jr., who was also at the scene, was unhurt. He and other policemen rescued the victims by putting out the fire on their clothes.

"The mayor probably lit the pile prematurely or there was so much gasoline poured," photographer Ed Gumban of the Philippine Star said.

He added one of the men pouring fuel on the pile might have unwittingly set off the fireball when he threw a bottle of gasoline into the heap.

The victims were taken to the Ospital ng Maynila where their burns were quickly treated.

Arazas was later transferred to Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Las Piñas close to his house.

In a statement, Atienza expressed regret over the incident.

"This is an unfortunate accident," Atienza said. "I have personally made sure (the victims) will get adequate medical treatment and we will shoulder the costs."

Floods cause paralysis . . .

(From page A17)

tary and high school classes in Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas, Valenzuela, Quezon City and Mandaluyong.

Education Undersecretary Ramon Bacani announced the suspension of classes on radio about 8:30 a.m., four hours after the DECS is mandated to decide whether classes would be cancelled.

Bacani said DECS received the reports from division offices on the flood situation in all parts of Metro Manila only at 7 a.m.

In Malabon, scores of families were reportedly evacuated from Yellow Bell Street, Barangay Potrero when the Tullahan River overflowed.

Floodwaters in the area reportedly rose to six feet.

Abbi Balatbat, Malabon public information officer, said 85 percent of the city was in waste-deep of water.

High tide, he said, worsened the flooding particularly in the city proper and in 10 barangays.

The local government deployed four trucks to take affected residents to safer areas, Balatbat said.

Many streets in Caloocan were also submerged, some in waist-deep water impassable for light vehicles.

Seven barangays in Valenzuela and all 14 barangays of Navotas were also underwater.

Navotas officials have deployed four amphibious vehicles donated by the military to undertake search and rescue, said Rico Cruz, the town's public formation officer.

Yesterday, DECS asserted its authority to suspend classes despite the call of most Metro Manila mayors to be given the same right.

Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay has asked Education Secretary Raul Roco to give back to the mayors the authority to suspend classes because local executives are in a better position to judge.

In a letter addressed to Roco, Binay mentioned that former education secretary Andrew Gonzalez had authorized Metro Manila mayors to cancel classes in their areas even before DECS could issue a bulletin.

Roco however stood pat on his decision that DECS had the sole authority to issue such announcements. He also stressed that metro mayors were not opposing the DECS mandate but were merely clarifying the issue "very politely."

"To avoid confusion, we will announce for all," Roco stressed in his regular press briefing.

He said mayors may announce suspension of classes in the aftermath of natural calamities.

"As local governments, they really have this power," Roco said. "We're not taking that away from them."

Makati BPI robbed; 1 security guard hurt

By Nelson F. Flores

SIX armed men yesterday afternoon robbed a Bank of the Philippine Islands along a busy street in Makati City, leaving a security guard wounded and many bank employees badly shaken.

Police identified the wounded guard as Arnold Alego.

They said Alego sustained gunshot wounds in the leg and was brought to the Makati Medical Center after the heavily armed robbers left the bank.

Robbed shortly after 2 p.m. was the Bank of PI branch at the corner of Malvar Street and South Super Highway in Barangay Bangkal.

Investigators said the armed men came at 2:10 p.m. on board a Honda Civic car with registration plates WLS 182 and immediately rushed inside the bank. The investigators said the robbery was over in five minutes.

One of the robbers shot Alego while the rest ordered everyone inside the bank to lie face down on the floor while another scooped the cash from the bank vault, police said.

After clearing the vault of cash, the robbers fled on board the same car.

Senior Supt. Jose Gutierrez, director of the Southern Police District Office, organized a police team to run after the robbers.

Gutierrez expressed belief that the robbers are still in Metro Manila.

He added that aside from his men, he had asked other government agencies like the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority and the local government units in southern Metro Manila to help in the investigation, pursuit and apprehension of the suspects.

"Only a coordinated approach against these criminals will solve the problem," Gutierrez stressed.

Abus cannot sow terror in Metro, says Abbas

Philip C. Tubeza

THE ABU Sayyaf does not have the capability to sow terror in Metro Manila, a former legal counsel of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) said yesterday.

Macapanton Abbas Jr., Bangsamoro Multisectoral Assembly chair, also warned that this could be a diversionary tactic to divert attention from the military's failure to go after the Abu Sayyaf in the South.

Abbas yesterday said during a news conference that the notorious bandits in Basilan and Sulo do not have enough manpower and logistics to conduct a bombing blitz in the capital.

The Inquirer learned of the alleged terror campaign by the Abu Sayyaf on Thursday after it got hold of a "confidential" police memorandum that warned against a bombing spree in Metro Manila by the bandits.

"You cannot operate in an open area," Abbas said. "They can detonate bombs but they'll be captured."

He explained that this was why the bandits fled to the rugged hills and mountains of Basilan and Sulo to hide from the military pursuing them.

The Abu Sayyaf also does not have enough support from the Muslim communities of Metro Manila, Abbas said.

Many of the newcomers in these communities are in fact evacuees from the conflict in Mindanao. Muslim leaders in Manila have also agreed in the past with the authorities to police their own ranks against terrorists and common criminals.

Community elders in Culiat, Quezon City have instituted an identification system against criminals who might use the Muslim community there as a base of operations.

Abbas said he was concerned that the intelligence reports might again be used to "demonize Muslims" in general.

Woman 'in love' kills herself

"MY GOD, why have you forsaken me?"

These were the last words of Elvie Bacani, 30, as contained in a note she left behind before she allegedly killed herself by drinking a bottle of pesticide late Thursday night.

Police said Bacani, of San Luis Street, Pasay City, killed herself when her fiance, Rodel Daque, failed to fetch her Thursday morning for their scheduled wedding yesterday in Isabela province.

According to Norman, Bacani's younger brother, his sister and Rodel decided to hold a church wedding after they obtained their marriage license early this month. He said Rodel was the first man his sister got engaged with.

Norman told police that his sister was so in love with Rodel that she left her job as a housemaid to marry her boyfriend.

But for still unknown reasons, Rodel stopped seeing Bacani since the start of the week, Norman said.

He added that Rodel also left his rented room and disappeared without a trace.

"My sister felt so bad, which was probably why she killed herself," a tearful Norman said in Filipino. "Rodel was the only man my poor sister loved."

Nelson F. Flores

'Salvaged'

By Jerome Aning

THE BODY of a man believed to be a victim of "salvage" or summary execution was washed ashore in Tondo, Manila yesterday morning, while a man's left leg was found hours earlier in a garbage dump in Sta. Cruz.

The Western Police District Station 3 reported the discovery of the limb by street sweeper Leonardo Mangabat about 1 a.m. near the gate of the Espiritu Santo parish school along Oroquieta Street.

Mangabat said he was putting a plastic bag into his pushcart when he noticed that it contained a limb. The bag was in a pile of garbage on the sidewalk.

SPO1 Raul Olavario of the WPD homicide section said the leg belonged to a fair-skinned man. But he said the limb smelled of fornaldehyde.

Police said the leg could have been used by medical students or came from a hospital's surgery ward.

Residents found the decomposing body of an unidentified man, also believed to be a victim of salvage, floating in the Manila Bay off Tondo at 6:30 a.m.

SPO1 Olavario described the victim as between 26 and 28 years old, about 5-foot-6, short-haired, stocky, and wearing brown shoes, black shorts and white underwear.

Dengue alert

REELECTED Las Piñas City Mayor Vergel Aguilar has directed the city health office to conduct an information campaign on dengue and other water-borne diseases brought by the rainy season.

Aguilar said that even with an information campaign, residents must also observe cleanliness in their household to prevent the outbreak of diseases.

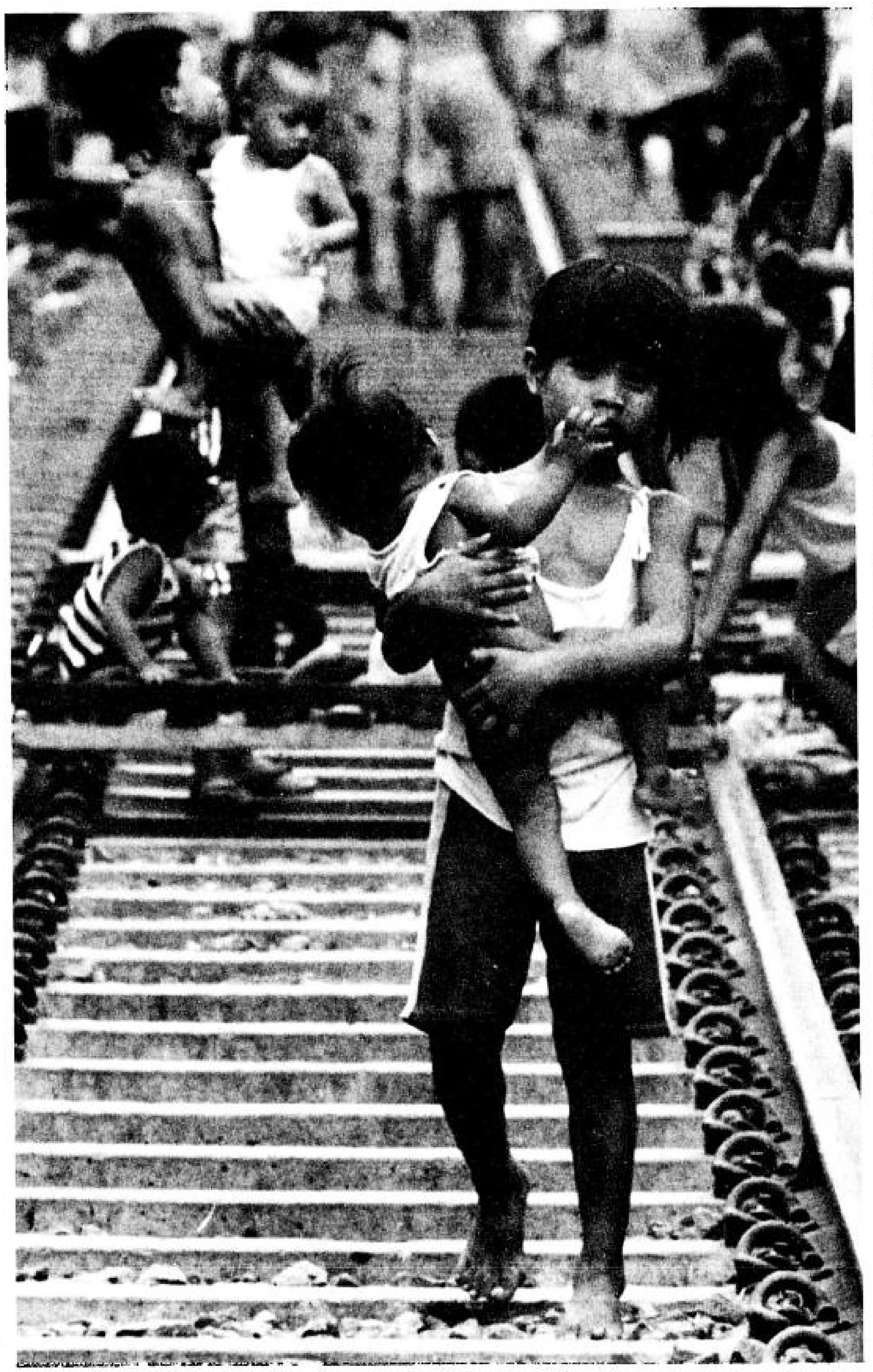
He also encouraged school officials and other educators to include in their health subject the campaign on dengue and other communicable diseases.

Aguilar urged city residents to follow the 4 o'clock habit designed by the Department of Health (DOH) to avert the possible outbreak of dengue.

He said the prevention of the outbreak of killer-diseases such as dengue, leptospirosis, diarrhea, hepatitis-A and typhoid fever is the focus of his administration's health campaign.

He said prevention through information dissemination and community-wide health education has been proven an effective way to control the outbreak of killer diseases.

Las Piñas has more than 27 modern health centers supervised by doctors and other medical staff and equipped with health facilities and equipment. The centers also have sufficient supplies of vaccines and medicines, Aguilar said.



DENNIS SABANGAN

NOT ON THE RIGHT TRACK

Many children are born and grow up in habitats like the railroad tracks that cross parts of Metro Manila. Often, many of them grow old and die there, too.

Two men hunted for forwarding firm robbery

By Agnes Donato

POLICE are searching for two men on a motorcycle who allegedly robbed an employee of a door-to-door forwarding company of P200,000 in remittances in Mandaluyong City.

The victim was identified as Melissa Marqueses, 31, officer-in-charge of the Emir Express Services which has offices at the East Center Building on Sierra Madre Street in Mandaluyong.

Marqueses told investigators she had just withdrawn the money from the Metrobank branch on Libertad Street and was on her way back to her office on board a tricycle driven by Francisco Cineza, 31, when the robbery took place about 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday.

The victim said the two suspects, both armed with handguns, blocked her tricycle just a few meters away from her office on Sierra Madre Street.

The robbers then allegedly grabbed the large envelope containing the cash and fled.

Police said the suspects might have been monitoring Marqueses' movements before they pulled off the heist.

The victim said the suspects are in their late 20s, stand about 5-foot-4 to 5-foot-6 tall, and are clad in white shirts, dark blue vests and denims.

Messenger in stabbing

POLICE are looking for a company messenger who reportedly stabbed to death his security guard housemate during an argument about the payment of their illegal cable TV connection in Sta. Ana, Manila Friday night.

The victim, Bernardo Monsalud, 42, married and an agent of Gards Inc., suffered several stab wounds and was pronounced dead upon arrival at the Philippine General Hospital, police said.

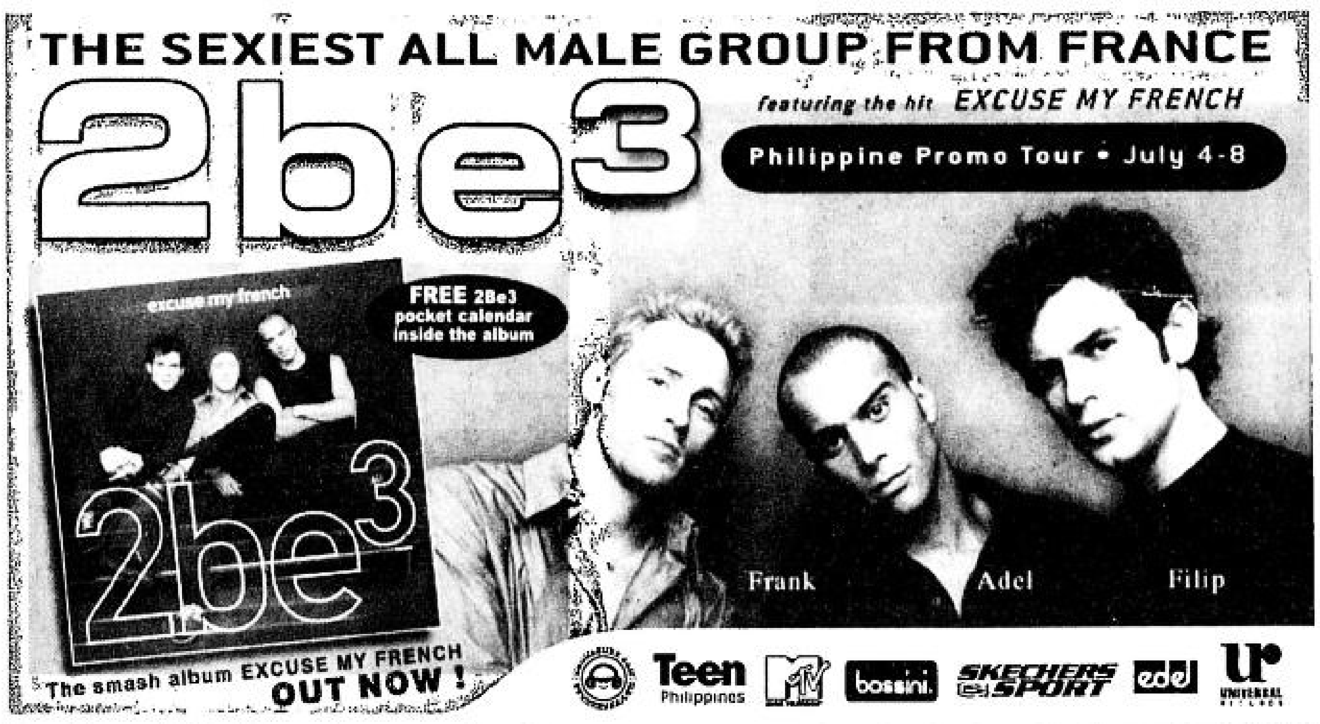
Monsalud and suspect Primo Almozera, between 35 and 37 years old, had been at odds for the past two weeks on who should pay for their cable TV connection, said SPO3 Ismael de la Cruz of the city police's homicide section.

Investigation showed the two men had tapped on a neighbor's legitimate cable connection in exchange for cash. The neighbor had been trying to collect the fee, police said.

Around 10 p.m. Friday, Monsalud arrived from work and again confronted Almozera about the matter. The shouting match that ensued escalated into a fistfight, police said.

Almozera reportedly pulled out a knife, stabbed Monsalud in different parts of the body, and fled. Neighbors who heard the watchman's screams burst into the two men's house at 2039 Dela Alas St., found Monsalud bleeding and brought him to the hospital.

Jerome Aning



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Desperately seeking Nature

By Mario Cornejo

LOOK around your office. Go on. Take your time. Now, see that plastic plant? Ask yourself: Is this all the Nature I'm going to see today?

Living in this modern age is great and all, but sometimes our bodies and souls feel the call of the wild, yearn for a connection to mother earth. If you find yourself staring at your screensaver, not at the beautiful bodies in bikinis but at the beach scene behind them, it's time for an excursion.

But you don't have to climb the slopes of Mt. Banahaw. There are a few spots of nature right here in the metropolis, and one of the most extraordinary is the Orchidarium and Butterfly Pavilion in Manila.

Where, why

Situated on Finance Drive corner Orosa Street, near the old Senate building, the Orchidarium is a project of the Clean and Green Foundation Inc. But despite the name, this haven is not just for elderly matrons with big hair and upraised pinkies sipping their tea.

In fact, you don't have to know anything about orchids at all to appreciate this wonderful scene. I myself often confuse my *Pilea hummulariifolia* with my *Phalaenopsis pulchra*, but I still had a great time.

According to Imelda Sarmiento, executive director of the Orchidarium and Butterfly Pavilion, this site used to be a mere parking lot for the old Finance building, which has since also been reborn into the Museum of the Filipino People.

Then, in 1994, the Clean and Green Foundation, headed by then First Lady Amelita Ramos, undertook to reclaim the asphalt and concrete and to create a setting where orchid and nature lovers could converge.

Thus the orchidarium was born. At first, the site was simply a large garden housing a number of orchids from all over the world, some of them quite rare. But as time passed, the orchidarium was ripe for an evolution. After all, the number of orchid enthusiasts in this country wasn't enough to support the upkeep of the rare flowers, which were high maintenance indeed.

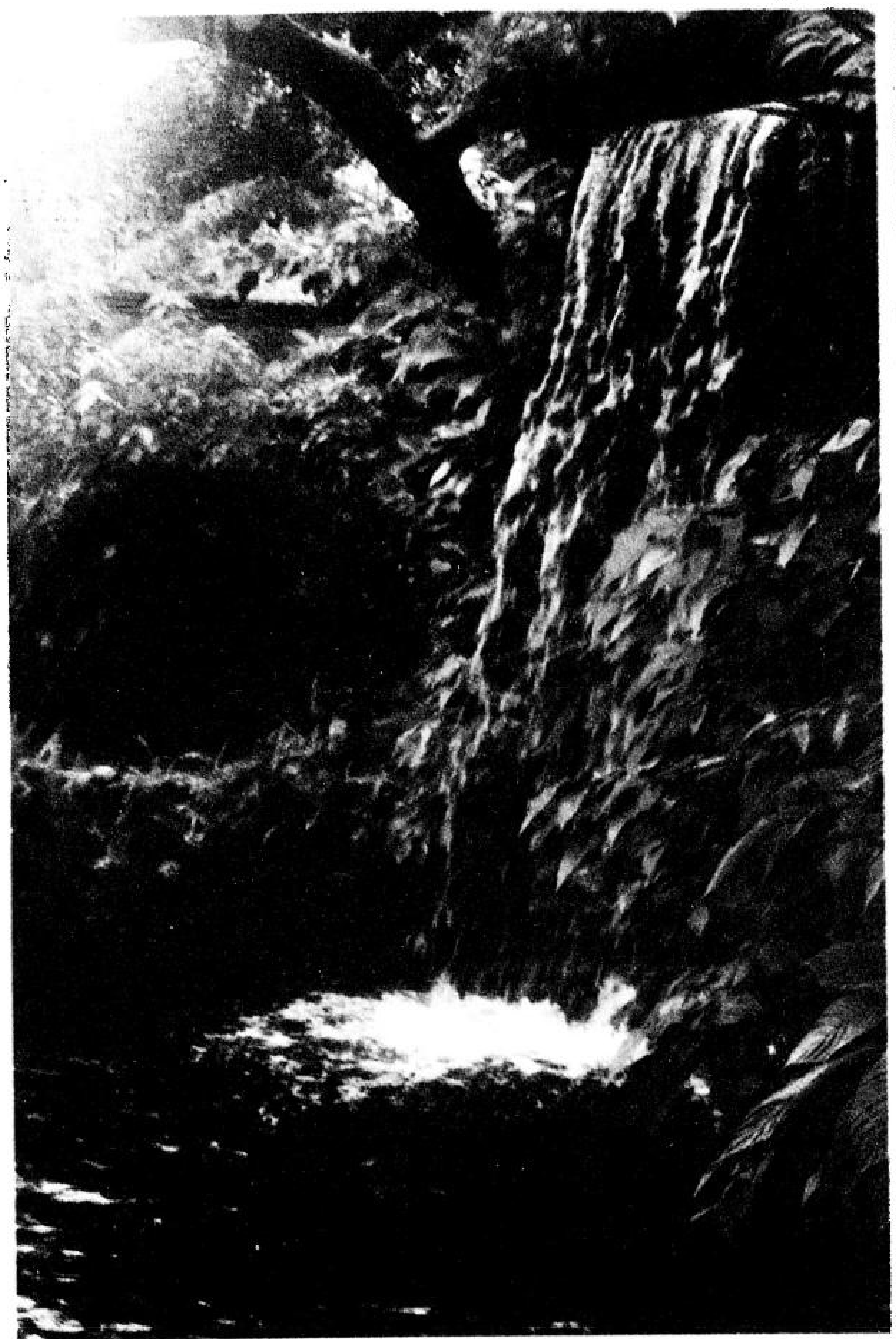
After careful planning, the new Orchidarium and Butterfly Pavilion reopened in November 2000. And this current incarnation provided a more commercial and democratic approach to Nature.

More than just housing rare flowers of interest only to orchid hobbyists and enthusiasts, this garden is now a venue for education, recreation, and even entertainment and dining.

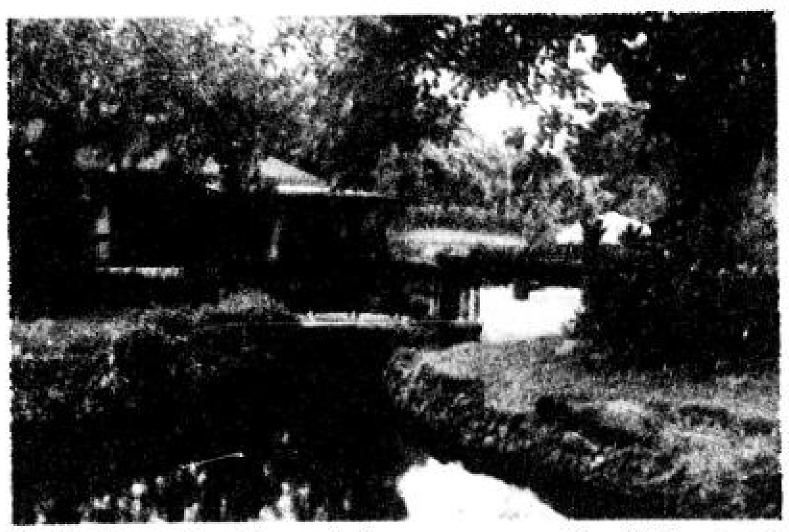
The experience

Entering the grounds is like entering another world, much like the classic children's book, "The Secret Garden." There is a winding path which takes you through the garden, giving it a somewhat labyrinthine feel. And as you walk down this path, you are drawn further and further away from your cares, somewhat like an initiation, as you venture into the arms of Nature.

There are more than 20 different pockets or mini-gardens which you pass one by one, and like in the Stations of the Cross, it's a good idea to spend some time contemplating each of these before moving on to the next one, to give you a complete experience.



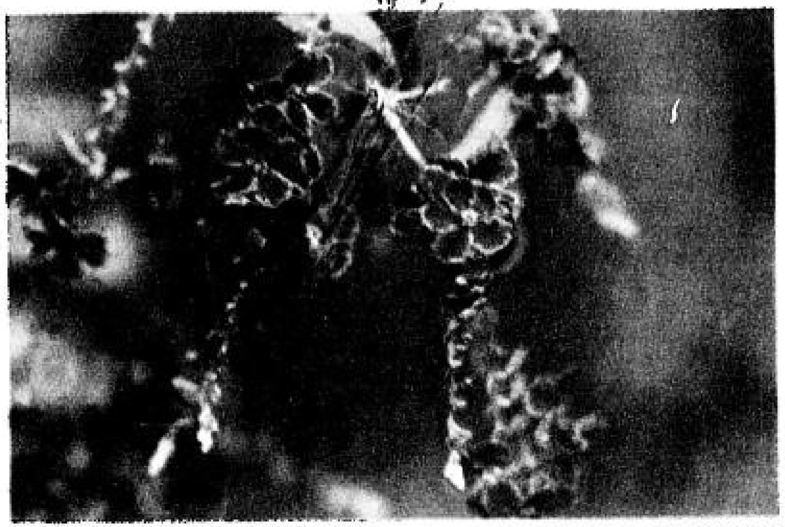
POCKETS of peace. The Orchidarium has more than 20 mini-gardens with different themes and with an overall charming effect. These pockets include a waterfall and the lake with a bridge (below).



These mini-gardens are divided by different themes, sometimes by the variety of plant represented, and others seemingly by pure whimsy. The overall effect is quite charming, as this rough organization is neither cluttered nor cold and scientific.

Mini-gardens

For example, one of the mini-gardens is named Vanda Alliance. On this spot you learn about the *Vanda* genus of orchids and get to see some prime examples of this common but beautiful type. Another area is devoted to *Terrestrials*, which are the species of orchids which spring from the earth. Again you see a sampling of different varieties of this type of orchid, and learn about their particular qualities.



PHOTOS BY CORINNE DE SAN JOSE

But just when you think this park is one big taxonomy lesson, you come upon a spot like the First Ladies Blooms, which is a site dedicated to all the presidential spouses that our young nation has had. Here we are treated to an array of *Mussaendas*, known locally as *Kahoy Dalaga*.

Filipino horticulturists from UP Los Banos have developed one hybrid for each of the First Ladies in our history. For example, the wife of Emilio Aguinaldo, Dona Hilaria, has been honored with a *Mussaenda* with a light pink shaded bloom. Doña Aurora, wife of President Quezon, has a white flower dedicated to her memory, and so on.

Notably missing is one former first lady whose exit was somewhat unanticipated. First Men, or husbands of our women Presidents, will likewise not receive this singular honor, simply because that would be kind of weird.

Butterfly pavilion

And then there is the Butterfly Pavilion, one of the favorite features in the site. As you enter this enclosure, you are simply surrounded by hundreds of butterflies of different shapes and sizes. This explosion of colors is flying about is simply mesmerizing, and one can easily spend an hour just looking at these fascinating creatures.

And for those who can't just live in the moment, there is an educational module as well. You can see the different stages of the butterfly's life, and learn some interesting trivia as well.

For example, I learned that butterflies are completely deaf, which is why they never seem to get insulted no matter how rude you are to them. Also, they live for a grand total of 10 days, and spend two days of that mating, which by all accounts is a pretty good percentage. Use this fact to shut up that arrogant loudmouth in the locker room.

Landscape

While the park is segmented into different areas, there is a sense of being a unified whole. Tied together by bridges and bodies of water, the site feels well planned indeed.

This fact is made all the more remarkable when one learns that no landscape architect was employed. According to the project director, Forester Alvarez, the garden is truly a collective effort. The planners simply researched and looked at a lot of books and such, then planned the project based on what they had seen and liked. The result is better than you'd think, quite tasteful and very soothing.

Activity junkies

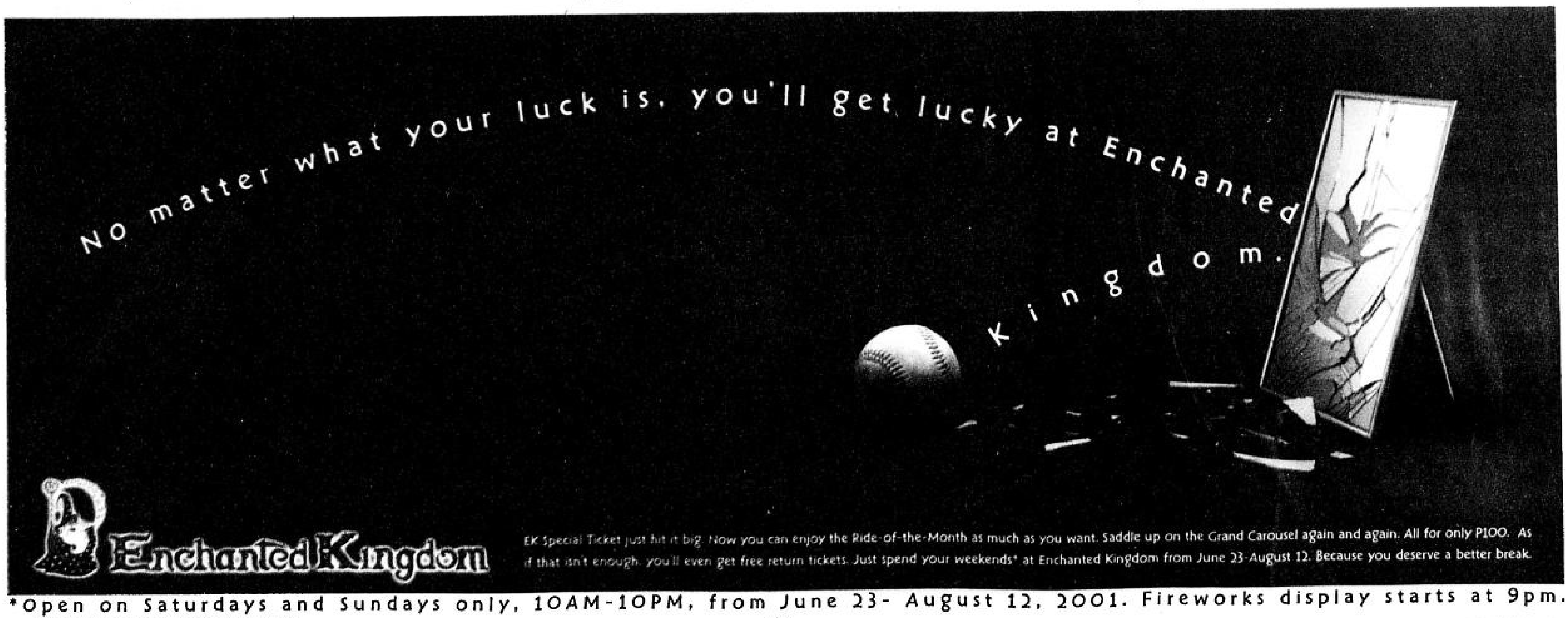
For those people who can't just sit and appreciate Nature, the park has made a few concessions to your active lifestyle.

For example, there is a rock-climbing tower, where you can challenge your vertical limits in complete safety and for a minimal fee of P25. Strap on a harness and start climbing. Lest you think it too difficult for you, know that my seven-year-old sister made it up, no sweat.

If that's too stressful for you, maybe fishing is more your speed. You can rent a rod also for just P25, and try your luck in the small "river" that runs through the park.

The *tilapia* you catch is not recommended for eating, however. Do it for sport, not for sustenance. The presence of my vegetarian photographer prevented me from trying my luck, so I can't tell you if the experience is worth it.

DESPERATELY/A23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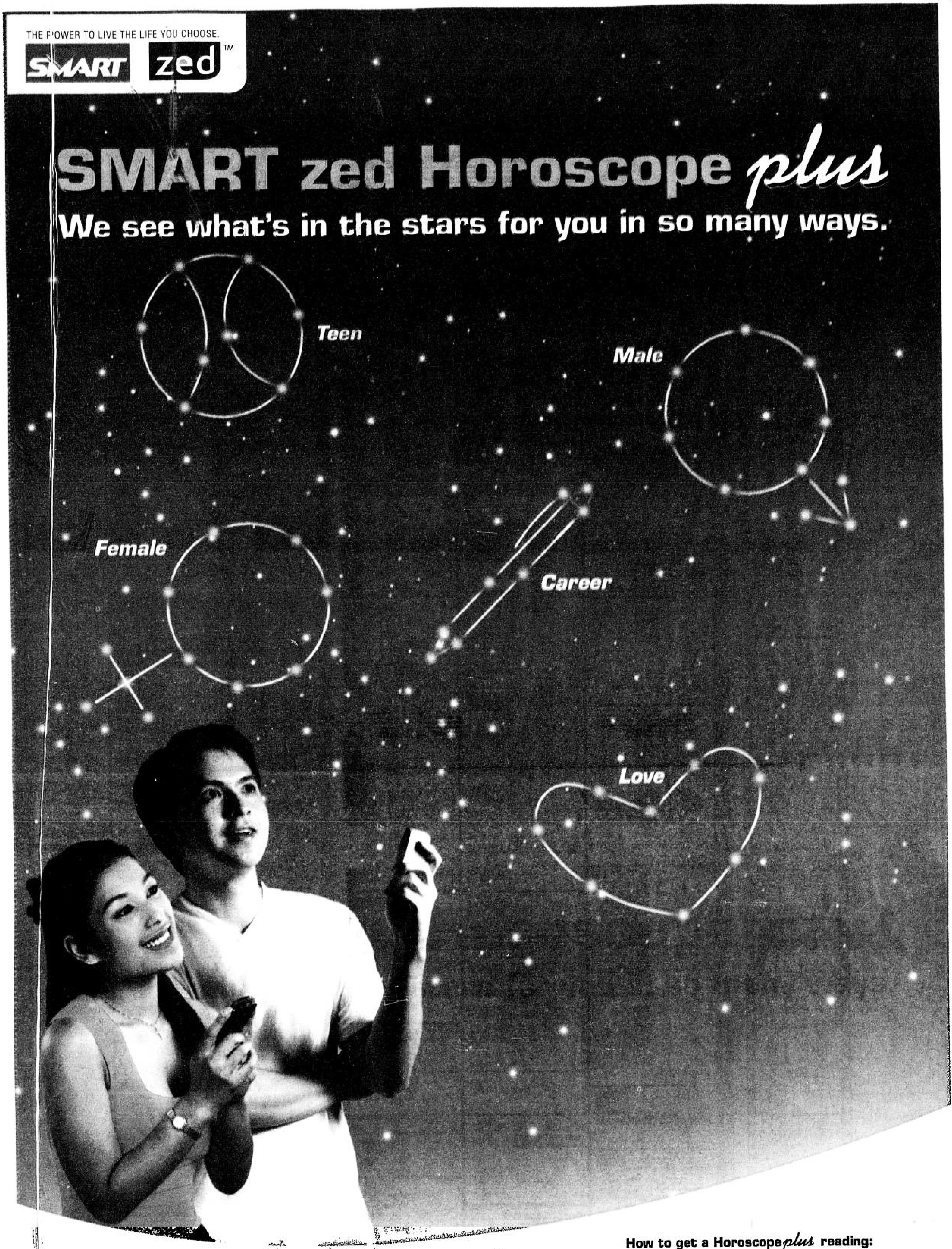

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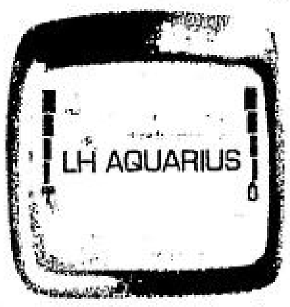
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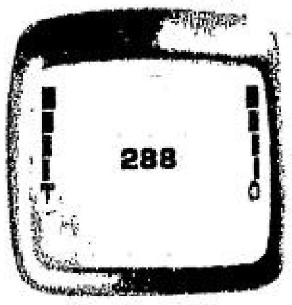
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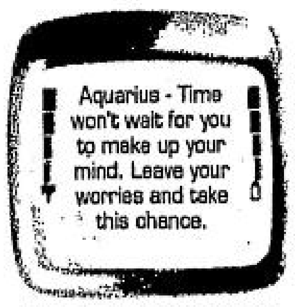
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THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	BUHAY KAMAO
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	LUV TEXT
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	ACCIDENTAL SPY
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	PEARL HARBOR
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	EVOLUTION
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	DR. T & THE WOMEN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	THE REPLICANT
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	LUV TEXT
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	ACCIDENTAL SPY
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SA IYONG MGA HAPLOS / BODY SHOCK
ODEON	ACCIDENTAL SPY
ODEON-2	BUHAY KAMAO
ROBEN	KASIBULAN
TANDEM-1	KUNG LILIGAYA KA
TANDEM-2	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
TIMES	3 000 MILES / WHAT WOMEN WANTS
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	KASIBULAN
QUEZON-1	KASIBULAN
REMAR	LUV TEXT
REMAR-2	MAGENTA
CUBAO	
OCEAN SUPERAMA	BABAENG PUTIK
OCEAN CINEMA-A	PANABLA
OCEAN CINEMA-B	CRISELDA
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	SPOT
CINEMA-2	EVOLUTION
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BUHAY KAMAO
CINEMA-2	KASIBULAN
CINEMA-3	MAGENTA
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	PEARL HARBOR
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	SPOT
CINEMA-6	THE MUMMY RETURNS
CINEMA-7	LUV TEXT
CINEMA-8	THE REPLICANT
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	PEARL HARBOR
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	ACCIDENTAL SPY
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	EVOLUTION
CINEMA-12	HEAD OVER HEELS
CINEMA-14	DR. T & THE WOMEN
CINEMA-15	LUV TEXT
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	ACCIDENTAL SPY
CINEMA-2	EVOLUTION
CINEMA-3	DR. T & THE WOMEN
CINEMA-4	PEARL HARBOR
CINEMA-5	HEAD OVER HEELS
CINEMA-6	EVOLUTION
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	PAY IT FORWARD
CINEMA-2	HIYAS
CINEMA-4	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	PAY IT FORWARD
CINEMA-2	SA IYONG MGA HAPLOS
CINEMA-4	BUHAY NA MANIKIN

Frat ban

TO STOP campus violence and fraternity-related activities inside and outside schools, Mandaluyong City Mayor Benhur Abalos has signed a resolution urging the city council to pass an ordinance banning fraternities in the city and prohibiting students from joining them.

Abalos stressed that Resolution No. 3 was unanimously approved during a special meeting with members of the School Board and with parents and teachers associations. The resolution seeks to impose measures to ban students in public and private schools in the city from joining fraternities.

"We have all become witnesses to the ill effects and senseless killings brought about by the war between fraternities and gangs," Abalos said. "Our utmost concern is to protect the lives and welfare of the students and take away the worries on the part of the parents and teachers."

The resolution is in compliance with the Department of Education Culture and Sports (DECS) Service Manual 2000.

Cop accused of raping girl

A 16-YEAR-OLD high school student has accused a police officer of a Pampanga town of sexually molesting her and threatening to kill her if she filed a complaint against him.

National Bureau of Investigation agents on Thursday told reporters that the rape might not be the first allegedly committed by SPO4 Romeo Perez, a member of the Philippine National Police-Criminal Investigation and Detection Group's unit in Mabalacat, Pampanga.

Investigators said the first rape took place between the night of May 28 and the morning of May 29 when Perez invited the girl for a drink at a local karaoke bar.

After a few rounds, the policemen allegedly told the girl that he admired her singing. He also offered to help her find a job in Japan as an entertainer.

But the girl claimed he felt dizzy after drinking a glass of beer and soon lost consciousness. She said she woke up hours later and she felt something heavy on top of her and saw that it was Perez.

The girl said she tried to resist his advances but he punched her in the thighs and threatened to hit her head with a pistol.

NBI agents said they would summon Perez next week.

Jerome Aning

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LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

'Tell the whole truth about Mehan, Mayor'

By Jerome Aning

A MANILA conservationist yesterday challenged Mayor Lito Atienza to tell city residents the "whole truth" about the construction of the new City Colleges of Manila campus on the historical Mehan Garden.

Tina Testa, one of the conservationists opposed to the construction, said the mayor "clearly lied" when he said only 8,000 square meters of the 24,600-square-meter park will be allotted for the CCM campus.

She said the mayor did not tell the public that a city ordinance has set aside about 6,000 sq m of the Mehan for conversion into parking space, thus further desecrating the historical and environmental value of the place.

Worse, Testa added, Atienza was informed by the National Historical Institute as early as April 2001 that the Mehan is a historical site but he proceeded with the project in violation of two presidential decrees.

She contended that the CCM project is illegal because the decrees prohibit anyone from touching historical places described as such by the NHI without permission from the agency.

Testa has already written Secretaries Joey Lina of the interior and Heherson Alvarez of environment and natural resources to stop the project. She is urging the NHI to step into the controversy.

"Manila can stand a lot of improvements, but we don't have to put up a lot of structures in historical places and destroy their heritage," she told the Inquirer in an interview in her house on San Sebastian Street in Quiapo.

Testa revealed that the city council enacted on Aug. 18, 2000 City Ordinance No. 8002 which detached 5,979 sq m from the Mehan "to be used as parking area and for other purposes."

The ordinance said the space would be converted into parking space for taxpayers transacting official business at the City Hall. It also authorized the city government to construct any building or structure on the lot.

The ordinance, authored by Councilor Marion Lacson, followed Ordinance No. 8000, approved on June 30, 2000, which authorized the construction of a permanent CCM campus on the Mehan.

"The mayor has to disclose what his real agenda for the Mehan really is," Testa said. "I'm afraid that commercial stalls will be set up on the lot and many trees will be felled to give way for both the CCM and the parking area."

Atienza said all the old trees that would be affected by the CCM project would be replanted elsewhere.

On Thursday, City Hall reported that 11 coconut trees had been cut down at the CCM project site. There are nine narra and three mahogany trees in the area.

Testa said the parking lot "would desecrate the historical and cultural heritage" of the Mehan, which was founded in 1858 as the Jardin Botanico, the first zoological and botanical garden established in Manila.

In 1913, the park was renamed after the American chief of sanitation and park superintendent, John Mehan.

The conservationist also showed a letter of NHI chair and executive director Pablo Trillana III, dated April 2, 2001 and received by the mayor's office two days later, in which the NHI chief expressed concern about the construction of the CCM campus.

Trillana said every effort should be made to preserve Mehan and Manila's historical parks and plazas. He also urged the mayor to make "alternative arrangements, such as utilizing or refurbishing existing public buildings where the proposed city college should be housed."

"While we appreciate (the mayor's) will and determination to build a city college and to introduce urban renewal in Manila," Trillana said, "we feel that green open spaces like the Mehan should be respected and maintained as part of Manila's historico-cultural heritage."

"Not only do these green spaces add historical character to the city but they also enhance Manila's qualities as a livable and ecology-friendly metropolis," he added.

The NHI chief told Atienza that the Mehan has been classified as a historical site. The NHI's predecessor, the Historical Research and Markers Committee, even installed a marker in the garden. The marker is now missing.

Trillana also mentioned in the letter that two years ago, the NHI furnished Manila planning officer with a historical background on the Mehan in the hope that the garden's rich history would be appreciated and given consideration in the city's future plans for the site.

The mayor did not give any indication that he knew the Mehan is a historical site when he was asked by Sen. Loren Legarda, whom he accompanied on an inspection and tour of the garden on Thursday.

Legarda brought to Atienza's attention presidential decrees 260 and 1505 which prohibits any person from modifying, altering, repairing or destroying the original features of any national shrine, monument, landmark and other important historical edifices declared and classified as such by the NHI without permission from its chair.

The mayor only promised to coordinate with the NHI and consult conservationist and environmentalist groups opposed to the project.

Testa said she spoke with Vice Mayor Danilo Lacuna who told her several councilors recommended that the Avanceña High School on Tanduay Street in San Miguel be used as the CCM campus site.

The four-story Avanceña has room for 5,000 students but currently has only 800 enrollees.

For several years, City Hall has been looking for a site to relocate the CCM campus and its students and teachers, who are crammed in the old Philippine National Bank head office on Escolta Street in Sta. Cruz. The students and teachers said their present campus is not conducive to learning.

Desperately seeking Nature

(From page A20)

And if fishing is still too exciting, take a snack at Lush Life, a restaurant built inside the park. It's air-conditioned, reasonably priced and the food is quite good.

Nature trip

Even without the recreational trimmings, the experience of visiting the Orchidarium and Butterfly Pavilion is complete in itself. The satisfaction comes in the little details infused throughout the park. There is a mini-waterfall where you can go behind the wall of falling water. There is a pond filled with large carp, which rush towards you expecting to be fed.

There are numerous places to sit and think, one of which is even explicitly named Reflection Point. Amusingly enough, the place overlooks a species of plant named *Brunfelsia Latifolia*, also known as Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow.

Overall, the experience is definitely worthwhile. There is almost nothing negative one can say about the place. It's clean and well kept, the staff is friendly and knowledgeable.

I myself was walked through by a charming young woman horticulturist named Jaja, who seemed to know what she was talking about, though I am easily fooled. And though there is an admission fee of P100, it is well worth that price.

They're open from eight to five, but call first (527-3676) to make sure they're not hosting a private function or field trip.

So the next time you hear the call of the wild, don't ignore the ringing and hope someone else answers the phone.

Go visit Mother Nature in her Manila rest house, also known as the Orchidarium and Butterfly Pavilion. She's been asking about you, and I just don't know what to tell her anymore.

(Email the author at mariocornejo99@yahoo.com)

ARROYO

Arroyo pledges to help sick OFW

AFTER spending eight days in a coma, overseas foreign worker Daphne Gaid woke up in a Beirut hospital wishing she could come home to recuperate.

She got her wish and more.

Gaid, who suffered brain aneurysm in Lebanon, arrived in Manila on Thursday night and was welcomed at the airport by presidential husband Jose Miguel T. Arroyo. He also assured her that the government is committed to providing her a package of assistance.

Arroyo, together with Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) manager Edgardo C. Manda and Marianito Roque of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA), fetched Gaid from the Emirates Air plane which landed at the airport about 9:15 p.m. Thursday.

Labor Attache Alicia Santos accompanied Gaid on the flight.

Even though weak and still suffering from partial amnesia, Gaid was surprised with the special and warm welcome awaiting her at the airport and the presence of tri-media. But she could barely remember what happened to her.

"I got sick and collapsed," she said in Filipino.

Arroyo told Gaid of the package of assistance being extended to her by the government of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo through the OWWA.

Gaid was brought to the Philippine General Hospital (PGH) for an overnight stay for further examination. Yesterday, accompanied by an OWWA nurse, she flew to Cagayan de Oro to be united with her relatives. She will then travel by land back to her hometown in Iligan City.

"All this is free," Arroyo told her in Filipino. "This is how the government of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo shows its concern for people like you."

He said Gaid would be provided with a scholarship for her beneficiary, medical and disability assistance, reintegration and loan assistance. *PNA*

Housing for poor

SOME medium-rise housing facilities will be built by the Pasay City government in the city's open government lots and expropriated pieces of property.

Pasay Mayor Wenceslao "Peewee" Trinidad yesterday said the housing units would be an added housing project under his Palupa't-Pabahay Program to provide shelter for the 33,433 squatter families.

Trinidad said the city plans to build medium-rise housing units on the 2,400-square-meter lot along Cementina Street near barangays 66 and 67, the 6,000 sq m lot at the Hankins Compound at the corner of Protacio and Tolentino streets in Barangay 133 and on a big property near Jollibee in Barangay Merville.

"The general goal of the project is to improve the living conditions of the city's poor to encourage vitality in a neighborhood scale and preserve the majority of established single-family neighborhoods," Trinidad said.

Residents ask FTI help to ease traffic jams

BARANGAY officials of Western Bicutan in Taguig have asked the new management of the government-owned Food Terminal Inc. (FTI) to reopen to vehicular traffic the Rambutan gate of the sprawling FTI complex as an alternate route to decongest the daily traffic jam along the East Service Road.

In a letter to the new FTI president, barangay chair Rodolfo M. Guiyab said the reopening of the gate would save thousands of motorists precious man hours lost to the bumper-to-bumper traffic on the narrow East Service Road everyday, particularly in the vicinity of the BLC condominium and the Office of Barangay Western Bicutan.

To address possible security concerns over the gate's reopening, Guiyab offered to have the gate guarded and regulated by his barangay security men in addition to the FTI security force.

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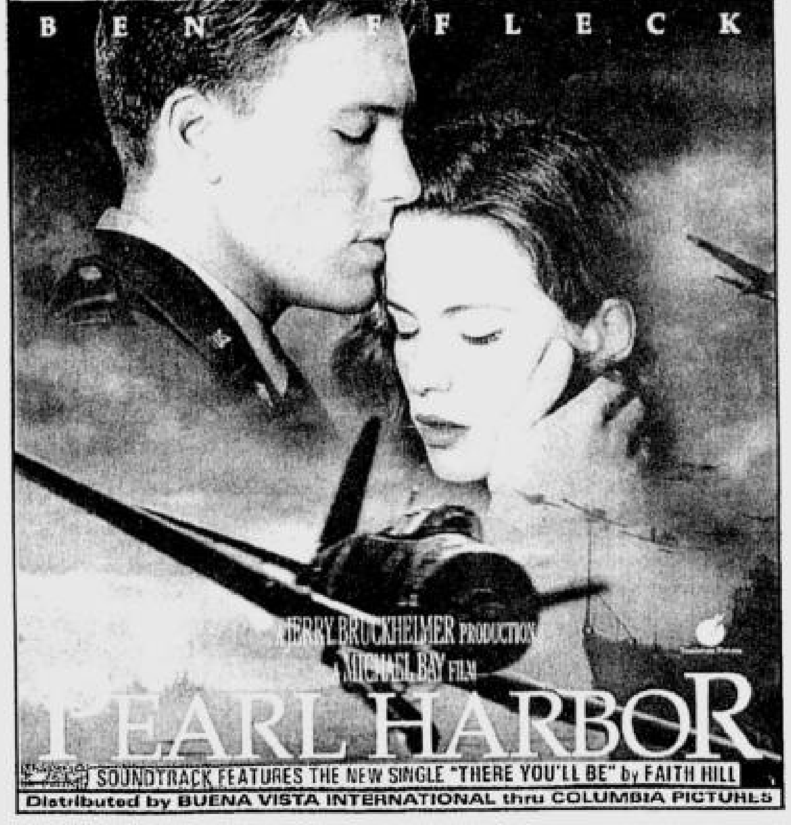

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PEARL HARBOR - P 13 11:30, 3:00, 6:30, 10:00	HEAD OVER HEELS - P 13 12:20, 2:20, 4:20, 6:20, 8:20, 10:20	EVOLUTION - P 13 11:10, 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00

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David Duchovny (FBI Agent Mulder in X-FILES), Orlando Jones (BEDAZZLED), Seann William Scott (AMERICAN PIE) and two-time Oscar nominee Julianne Moore (HANNIBAL) star as the only people standing between the aliens and world domination.

A team of visual effects wizards, led by Phil Tippett, worked with director Ivan Reitman (GHOSTBUSTERS) to design an ever-evolving assortment of alien creatures, which were then digitally rendered. Tippett created the dinosaurs in JURASSIC PARK and the giant alien insects in STARSHIP TROOPERS.

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oldies

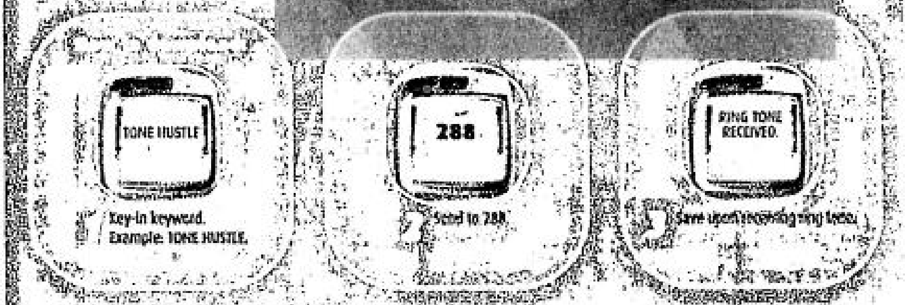
description	artist/composer	keyword
Oldies		
El Condor	Pasa Cozens	TONE ELCONDOR
Fantasy	Earth Wind and Fire	TONE FANTASY
It Might Be You	Stephen Bishop	TONE MYTBU
Light My Fire	The Doors	TONE MAFIRE
New York New York	Frank Sinatra	TONE NEWYORK
Proud Mary	CCR	TONE PROUDMRY
Rock Around The Clock	Billy Haley & His Comets	TONE ROCKAROU
The Hustle	Van McCoy	TONE HUSTLE
You Needed Me	Anne Murray/Charles Goodrum	[illegible]

opm

description	artist/composer	keyword
OPM		
Burn	Kulay	TONE BURN
Delicious	Kulay	TONE DELICIOUS
Mister Love	South Border	TONE MRLOVE
Remember Me	Dapulis	TONE REMBERME

party

description	artist/composer	keyword
Party		
Children	Robert Miles	TONE CHLDRN
Conga	Miami Sound Machine	TONE CONGA
Love Shack	B52's	TONE LUVSHAK
Sweet like Chocolate	Shanks	TONE CHOCLT
Together Again	Janet Jackson	TONE 2GDERAGN
Vengabus(We Like to Party)	Venga Boys	TONE VENGABUS


TONE HUSTLE
288
RING TONE RECEIVED.

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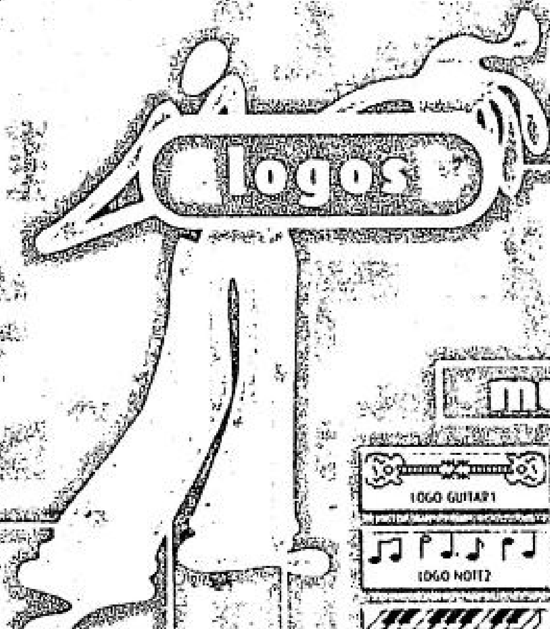

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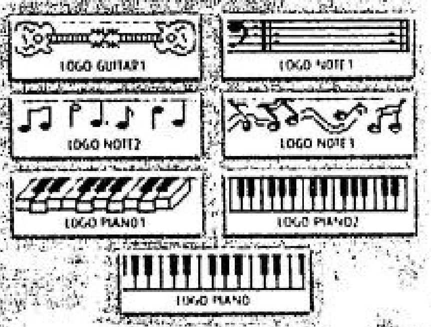
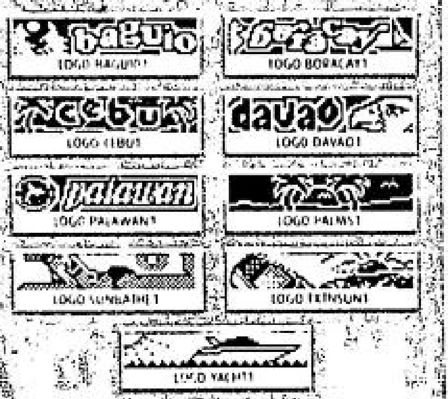

LOGO GUITAR1
LOGO NOTE1
LOGO NOTE2
LOGO PIANO1
LOGO PIANO2
LOGO PIANO

summer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boracay
LOGO BORACAY1
cebu
LOGO CEBU1
davao
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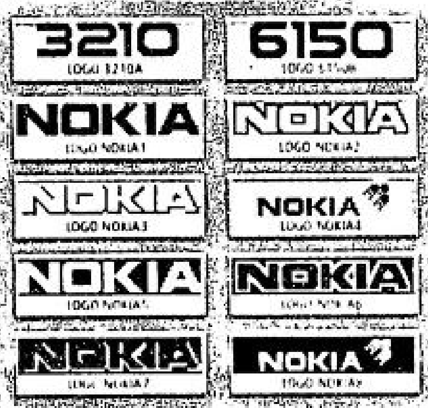
palawan
LOGO PALAWAN1
LOGO PALMS1
LOGO SUNBATHE1
LOGO YACHT1

nokia


3210
LOGO 3210A
6150
NOKIA
LOGO NOKIA1
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LOGO NOKIA2
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LOGO NOKIA7
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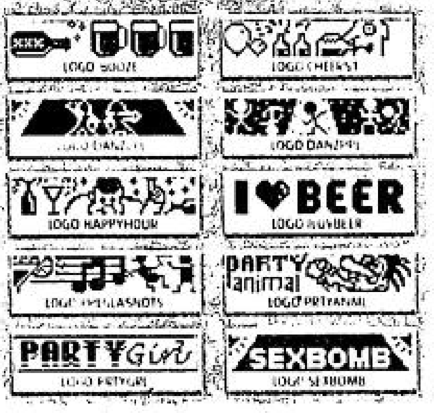
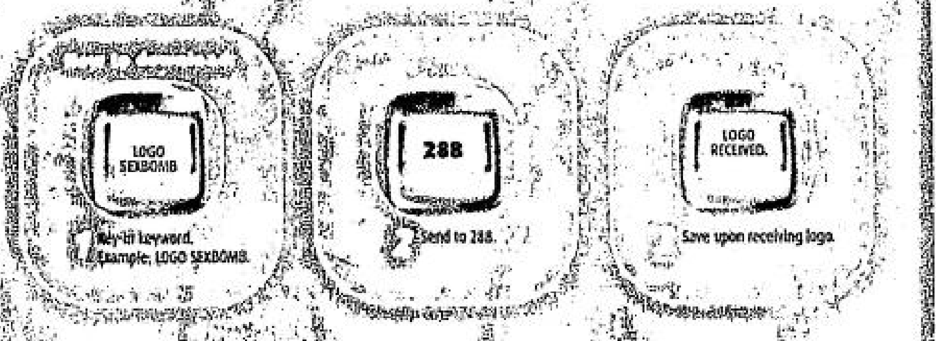
LOGO NOKIA8

party


LOGO BOOZE
LOGO CHEERS1
LOGO HAPPYHOUR
I ♥ BEER
PARTY animal
LOGO PRTYANML
PARTY Girl
LOGO PRTYGRL
SEXBOMB
LOGO SEXBOMB


LOGO SEXBOMB
288
LOGO RECEIVED.

Key-in keyword. Example: LOGO SEXBOMB.

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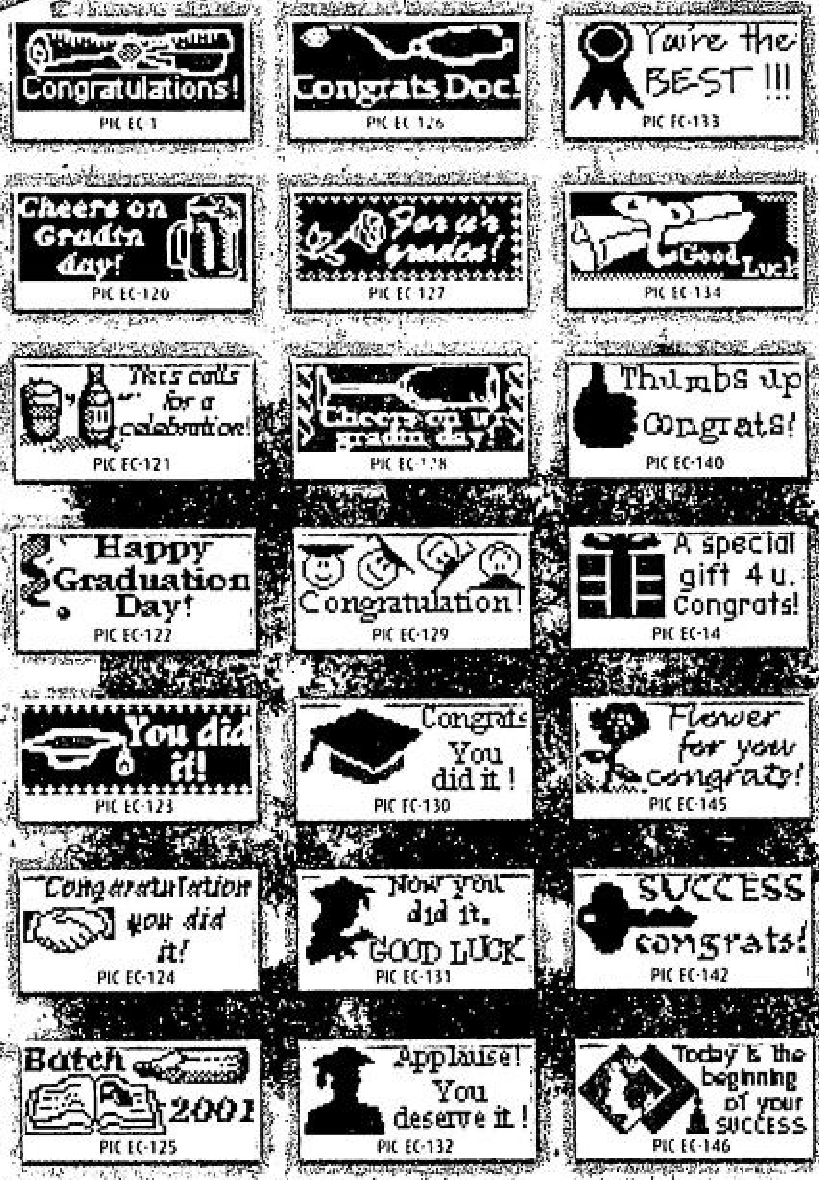
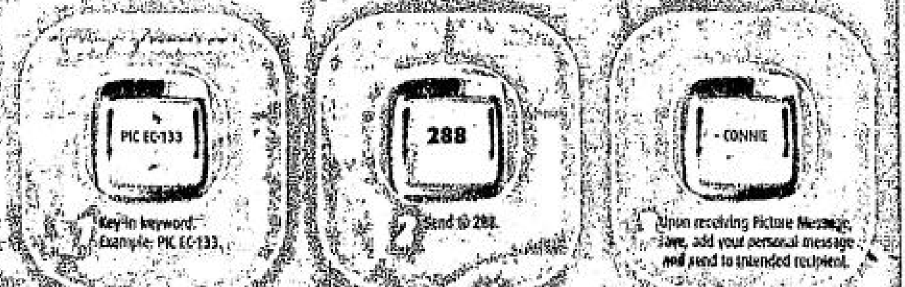
picture messages


Congratulations!
PIC EC-1
Congrats Doc!
PIC EC-126
You're the BEST !!!
PIC EC-133
Cheers on Gradtn day!
PIC EC-120
For u'r gradtn!
PIC EC-127
Good Luck
PIC EC-134
This calls for a celebration!
PIC EC-121
Cheers on ur gradtn day!
PIC EC-128
Thumbs up Congrats!
PIC EC-140
Happy Graduation Day!
PIC EC-122
Congratulation!
PIC EC-129
A special gift 4 u. Congrats!
PIC EC-14
You did it!
PIC EC-123
Congrats You did it !
PIC EC-130
Flower for you congrats!
PIC EC-145
Congratulation you did it!
PIC EC-124
Now you did it. GOOD LUCK
PIC EC-131
SUCCESS congrats!
PIC EC-142
Batch 2001
PIC EC-125
Applause! You deserve it !
PIC EC-132
Today is the beginning of your SUCCESS
PIC EC-146


PIC EC-133
288
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BUSINESS

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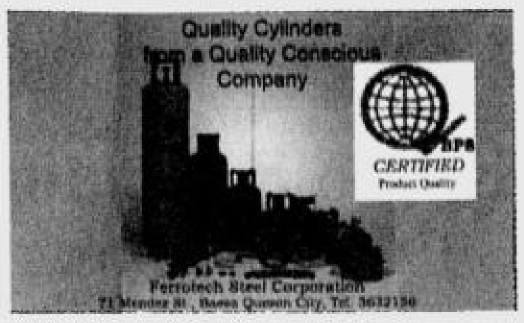
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Bangko Sentral warns speculators

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas yesterday threatened to intervene in the market and scrutinize the daily foreign exchange transactions to stop the speculative attack on the peso.

"The peso is beginning to reach a level that is creating some anxiety. It's time to remind the people that it could go down just as fast," Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura warned.

Buenaventura added: "We could intervene if necessary, although we have not found it necessary yet."

He said another option the Bangko Sentral was looking to halt the peso's fall was to tighten the monitoring of dollar purchases.

Buenaventura said local monetary authorities would no longer cut overnight rates even if the US Federal Reserve eases its rates by half-a-percentage point because of the continued peso weakness.

"We will not change (our rates). There is no increase in lending activity anyway because of the slow economy," Buenaventura told reporters yesterday.

The peso continued to languish in the 52-to-$1 level yesterday, closing one centavo lower at 52.21 to a dollar. Buenaventura said some banks were already churning, noting that transactions were kept among a few banks which make money from the daily fluctuations.

Volume of transactions reached only $74.5 million, indicating a modest activity in the dealing system.

The Bangko Sentral chief pointed out that after the central bank raised the possibility of an intervention, the foreign exchange market sobered and the fluctuation was minimized.

He said the threat of the Bangko Sentral coming in a big way to sell dollars eliminated what he called a "one-way bet," referring to the mindset that the local currency would continue to fall against the greenback.

Under certain circumstances, the Bangko Sentral can increase its overnight rates as it did by four percentage points last October to prevent the peso from further depreciating.

Higher interest rates siphon excess liquidity from the system which could be used for speculative attacks on the peso.

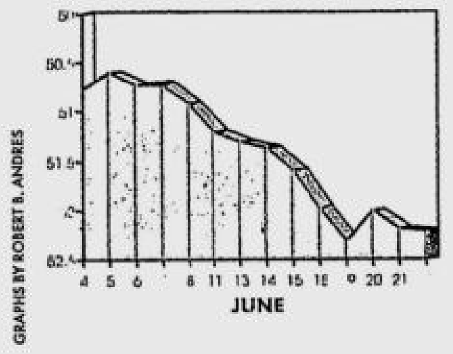
Bangko Sentral Deputy Governor Alberto Reyes said the central bank could again impose stricter requirements on foreign exchange transactions if it saw evidence that the peso's weakness was due to speculation.

"If we see that the peso is falling faster than the regional trend, we could strictly monitor their transactions, send examiners to check their books. We already inputted a certain value to domestic causes like the Abu Sayyaf so we know if there is speculation or not," Reyes said.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



Peso-Dollar Rate

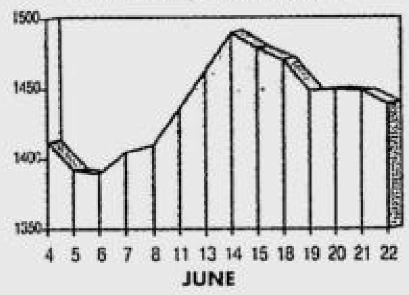
P52.21 = $1
As of 5 p.m.,
June 22, 2001

¥124.34 = $1
The US dollar was trading at 124.34 as of 5 p.m., June 22, 2001

GOLD:$272.80/273.80
per ounce Hong Kong,
June 22, 2001

STOCK MARKET

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B3)

Stocks lower

SHARE prices sank lower yesterday due to the weak peso and profit taking that continued to pressure select caps, traders said.

News of a bidding war between beer giant San Miguel Corp. and US-based PepsiCo Inc. for food conglomerate RFM Corp.'s unit Cosmos Bottling Corp. failed to lift the market.

"The market continued to consolidate due to lack of fresh leads both on the economic and corporate front. The peso remained weak. The Fed cut could hopefully give us a shot in the arm," said A&A Securities research head Astrolito del Castillo.

The main index slipped 4.40 points or 0.3 percent to 1,439.77 points on volume of P1.094 billion, beefed up by cross-sales of ABS-CBN Holdings Corp-preferred shares worth P649.1 million.

The index was down 2.67 percent or 39.53 points on the week. *Reuters*

Chubb of US eyes RP

CHUBB Corp., a New York Stock Exchange-listed holding company, is considering setting up a wholly owned non-life or general insurance subsidiary in the Philippines.

An official from the Insurance Commission said that representatives of Chubb Corp. and certain officials of the US Embassy in Manila visited the commission two weeks ago to explore investment possibilities here.

The Insurance Commission imposes a P300-million minimum capitalization requirement on foreign insurers putting up 100-percent owned subsidiaries in the country.

Chubb, which is into the property and casualty insurance business, is among the largest insurers in the US and in the world. It has 12,000 employees and agents serving customers from 135 offices in North America, Europe, South America and the Pacific Rim.

Chubb Corp. was formed in 1967 and listed in the NYSE in 1984. It ranks among the five largest publicly traded insurance organizations.

There are 105 non-life insurance companies in the Philippines. Since the insurance industry was liberalized in 1994, two foreign companies, the Zurich group and QBE of Australia, have set up operations in the country.

The country does not restrict the entry of foreigners in the non-life insurance industry.

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Epson Philippines sees 20% hike in earnings

By Abigail L. Ho

COMPUTER printer maker Epson Philippines Corp. said yesterday it expected a 20-percent increase in its revenues this year despite signs the domestic economy was souring.

In a news conference, Epson Philippines president Hiroaki Ito said Epson Philippines, a unit of Seiko Epson Corp. of Japan, was aiming for P1.2 billion in revenues by year's end, up from last year's P1 billion.

Ito's forecast came as Epson Philippines tendered slightly weaker first-quarter figures.

"We're facing some headache right now, but with the direction the información technology industry is going in the country, we hope to improve within the next several months," he told reporters.

Ito said the local personal computer industry was still picking up despite a global slump for new computer products. This, he said, should work in Epson Philippines' favor.

"So far, we're almost on target, but we really plan to improve our sales more," he said.

In terms of competition, Ito said Epson Philippines was in a tight race with Hewlett-Packard Co. and Canon Inc., but he expressed optimism the new Epson C20SX printer would give his company an edge in the market.

NEALE Donald Walsch, world renowned best-selling author of "Conversations With God" books arrived in Manila last night at 11:30 p.m. from Seoul, Korea to give an interactive talk to his Manila audience on Saturday, June 23, 6 p.m. at the Meralco Theater. Neale, known for his inspiring books that describe his "conversations" with God will be giving a three and a half hour talk that promises to be both entertaining and inspiring. He will be signing books after.

Walsch's books have a wide readership in the Philippines. Readers and members of his book clubs, some coming from Davao, Cagayan de Oro and Iloilo are planning to converge at the Meralco Theater as early as 4 p.m. to discuss the books prior to listening to the author. Mr. Walsch is on a world tour. After Manila, he will be going to Tokyo.

For tickets, please call 426-5375/929-0230/533-0506.

ADVT.

Kid not for ransom

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

NO President, big or small—or even medium—has ever done it before! That's why, frankly, Gloriaetta surprised me, and also the fungus in my right foot. She really showed the exact same humility she never showed before.

But if you believe the Palace's handlers, the President of the Republic apologized to the family of a recent victim of kidnap-for-ransom gangs. She did it, ahh, well, you know, "privately." The father also only happens to be a multimillionaire.

I just don't know if those vicious kidnap gangsters, who are P10 million richer, are not yet rolling over in a fit of thigh-slapping laughter, but apparently Gloriaetta told the victim's family, "Oops, sorry, I didn't mean to slap your face twice."

Still, this is the first time I hear of a president who owns up to a big-time boo-boo of men in uniform—whether khaki or barong. Usually, it's the other way around. Most presidents want only the credit, fame and glory, plus the usual percentage.

* * *

ANYWAY, if it was an honest mistake, then it was a stupid mistake. This cute administration hinted that the kidnapping of the millionaire's daughter seemed too dramatic to be real. Aha, it was the handiwork of the opposition!

How in the world they reached such a conclusion, should get the award for most imaginative performance by an aspiring jerk. If I were the father of the victim, you should kill me first before I would allow you to use my daughter in such a charade!

Somebody probably got the information through high-tech means of info gathering by the most sophisticated intelligence agencies in the world, such as the normally foolproof, usually highly reliable . . . well, "cellular phone text messages."

It seems that some prankster sent it to somebody in the police, who then passed it on to a dozen of his text-mates, who happened to include Gloriaetta. It was just a joke! And you just don't kid around about this—not when it involves big-time ransom.

It's clear proof, once again, ladies and gentlemen, that the term "police intelligence" needs a little updating. So what if I suggest something? What about "police mayonnaise?"

* * *

IMAGINE, instead of helping Gloriaetta, her own chosen men are even bringing her down! The poor little girl already has problems as big as, well, way up above her head. The economy is skidding fast, pointing to bad times, which is not really her fault yet.

This economic malady began in 1997, and economists are saying that it may take some years for us to get out of it. It cannot be done overnight. Business can only hope for Gloriaetta to speed up the recovery. It also helps to have an economic plan.

Bad times already show in the credit rating of the country abroad. Instead of improving, it may even be downgraded. This elicits complaints from the likes of Energy Secretary-turned Finance Secretary Jose Isidro "El Wiz Kid" Camacho y Go.

El Wiz precisely laments that the credit rating does not consider the positive developments here. For one, there was a change in administration. For two, there was also a change in administration. Finally, there was also a change...

* * *

ANYWAY, El Wiz also points out that, at the moment, the economy suffers from this problem in peace and order, implying that the economy is now also the problem of the police, instead of the economic managers like him.

I always thought differently. The crime rate usually goes up when times are hard. It happened in the early 1980s. Remember that crisis? It was the time we admitted we could not pay our debts, even if our creditors threatened to castrate Ferdinand Marcos.

Anyway, the credit rating firms abroad must see something in this economy, and it's not just kidnap-for-ransom. As Rep. Jose Salceda sees it, these bad times are part of an up-and-down cycle, and we have to do a lot more fast to break out of it.

To sell the country to investors, we need to do something more than just change the administration. Salceda says that, from hereon, we have to do something about the product and the store. So far, I guess we have only changed the salesgirls.

* * *

BAD TIMES do not only result in high crime rates. They also inspire our very own Pagcor to expand its gambling operations. I heard that soon, on or around July 6, Pagcor would reopen the casino at the Mimosa Resort Hotel in Clark. Wannabet!

Taiwan money has something to do with it, according to my source, who specifically requests that I don't say he is also a Rotarian, so I won't even say that he comes from the Rotary Club of Manila.

What a big coincidence! Another Rotarian also went to Taiwan recently for whatever it is they go to Taiwan for, like fish balls or something. And to think, this very same Pagcor helped a lot in sending home the man named Band . . . Wrist Band.

I don't know if Gloriaetta is aware of everything that's going on in Pagcor. Or for that matter, even First Gentleman Miguel "Just Call Me Mike" Arroyo! I just know that another Rotarian, with the initials "RF," is being groomed as the new Pagcor president.

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Meralco finishes ₱5-B urban poor electrification program

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE MANILA Electric Co. has completed its P5-billion electrification program for poor communities that covered parts of Metro Manila.

Documents obtained yesterday by the Inquirer showed that Meralco was able to provide electricity to some 316,000 households in 229 poor communities.

The project, funded with a loan package from the Japanese government, began in 1990 and targeted areas that lacked basic services, such as water supply and sewerage.

Meralco chose sites that the government identified as "areas for priority development."

These areas, however, were not totally without electricity at the start of the project. Documents showed that certain areas had electricity provided by illegal operators. Meralco found illegal connections in these areas.

In one such area, along Pena Road, Bahay Toro in Quezon City, a fourth of all households were getting electricity from "colorum operators."

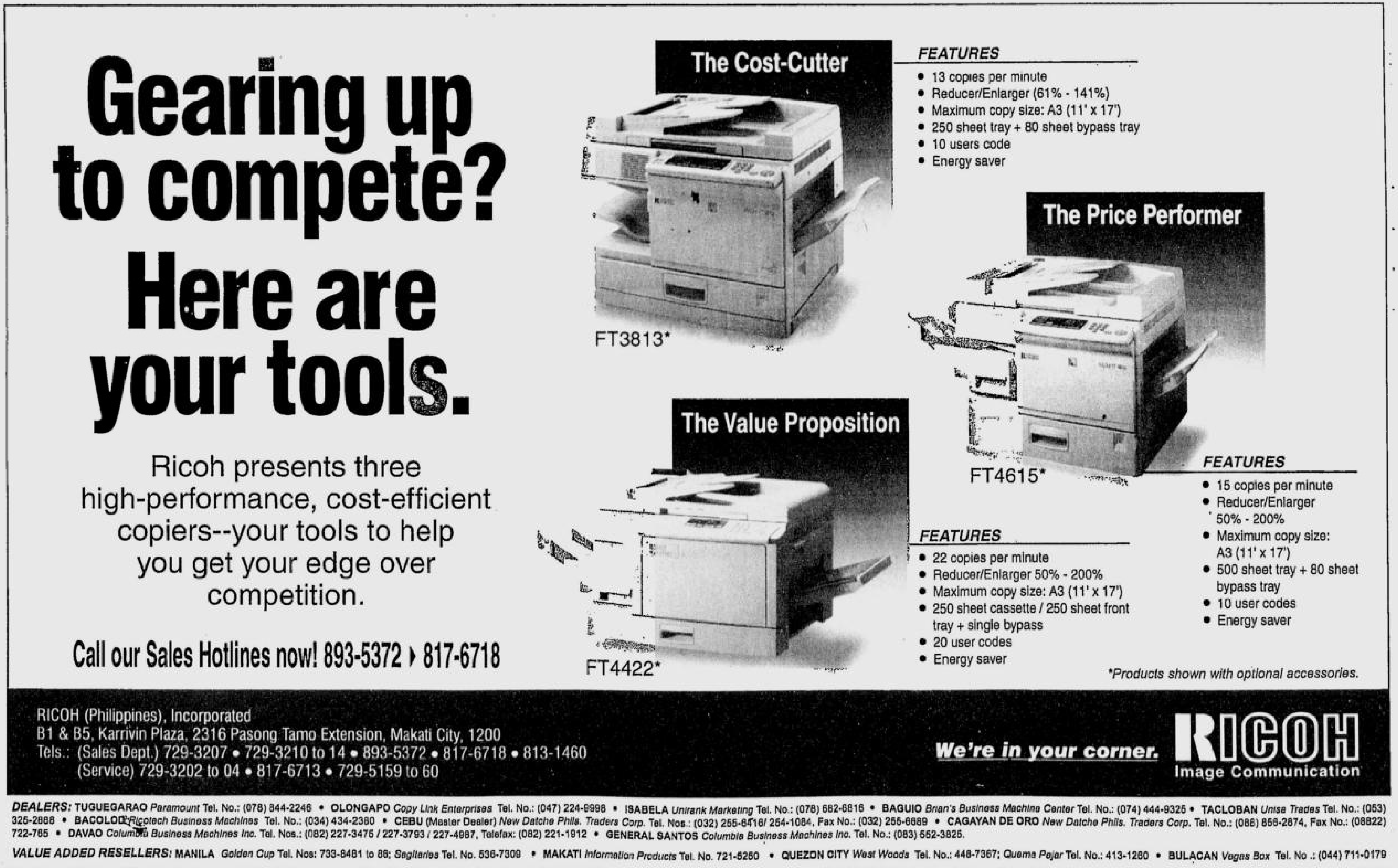
In another area in Tondo, nine out of every 10 households had electricity but half of them were connected illegally.

Meralco did not provide a detailed report of all 229 areas, although it indicated that only it had reduced to less than 5 percent the number of illegal connections in these areas.

The company said the peso's depreciation against the dollar and the yen's revaluation allowed it to focus on its electrification program for poor communities in its service areas.

The peso's weakness against the dollar, it said, "resulted in the availability of more pesos for the project, enabling an increase in the number of target households."

It said the project used a constant pricing scheme pegged at P21 and 133 yen to a dollar. This was the exchange rate in 1988, when the Japanese loan was being negotiated.



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Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Friday, June 22, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	75	75	74	74	49,300
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	37.5	38.5	37.5	38.5	38,400
First E-Bank Corp.	1.8	1.8	1.78	1.78	20,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	217	217	215	216	203,940
Philippine National Bank	46	46	45	45	29,300
Phil. Savings Bank	29	30	29	30	11,100
Union Bank of the Phil.	26	27	26	27	98,900
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	109,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	231	244	231	244	360
Manulife Financial Corp.	1375	1410	1375	1410	14,250
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1150	1175	1150	1175	23,190
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	40	40.5	40	40.5	23,600
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.54	0.54	0.51	0.51	1,510,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	670	690	670	680	1,800
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.04	0.04	0.039	0.039	700,000
Piltel	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	160,000
Philstar.Com Inc.	1	1	1	1	5,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	710	715	705	710	133,800
Ivantage Corp.	0.8	0.82	0.8	0.82	700,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.038	0.039	0.037	0.038	51,700,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	39.5	39.5	39	39	12,700
Manila Electric Co. B	55.5	55.5	55	55	81,100
Petron Corp.	2.16	2.18	2.14	2.18	3,765,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	10,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.18	1.18	1.1	1.1	99,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.55	2.55	2.3	2.32	19,969,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc	0.47	0.49	0.47	0.49	150,000
Negros Navigation Co. Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	30,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATEDPRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.36	0.37	0.36	0.37	120,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.3	256,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.22	1.22	1.2	1.2	1,440,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.06	2.12	2.06	2.1	58,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.3	5.3	4.65	4.65	3,238,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.5	13.75	13.5	13.75	84,400
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	26.5	27	26.5	27	21,000
RFM Corp.	1.66	1.66	1.42	1.42	6,169,000
San Miguel Corp. A	42.5	43	42.5	43	33,000
San Miguel Corp. B	48	48	47.5	48	487,600
Vitarich Corp.	0.35	0.5	0.35	0.5	150,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Atok-Big Wedge Co. Inc.	7	7.4	7	7.4	5,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.78	10,000
Ayala Corp.	7.1	7.1	7	7.1	855,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.46	1.46	1.44	1.46	459,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.9	0.94	0.9	0.94	1,010,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.52	0.53	0.52	0.53	780,000
APC Group Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	200,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	26,000,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	40,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.24	0.24	670,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.72	1.72	1.68	1.7	3,224,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.14	0.14	520,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	1,340,000
Fil-Estate Corp.	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	10,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.06	1.08	1.06	1.08	130,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp	26	26.5	26	26.5	173,500
Global Equities Inc.	0.22	0.24	0.22	0.22	2,030,000
Guoco Holdings (Phils.)	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	20,000
House of Investments Inc.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	2,940,000
Ionics Inc.	11.25	11.25	11	11	12,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	2.12	2.12	2.12	2.12	100,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.48	1.48	1.48	1.48	20,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.017	0.017	0.016	0.016	1,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.77	0.77	0.76	0.76	2,000,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.29	0.3	0.29	0.3	1,590,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	520,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.52	0.53	0.52	0.52	1,320,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.27	0.29	0.27	0.29	1,020,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	10,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.24	0.25	0.23	0.25	220,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Interphil Labs Inc. A	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	10,000
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.5	0.55	0.42	0.51	430,000
Music Corp.	2.12	2.12	2.06	2.06	111,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.67	0.69	0.67	0.67	370,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.095	200,000
Reynolds Philippine Corp.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	20,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.87	0.87	0.87	0.87	100,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	15.75	15.75	15.5	15.5	58,100
Steniel Manufacturing	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	40,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.46	0.46	1,280,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.55	0.62	0.54	0.57	9,900,000
Philippine Racing Club	5	5.1	5	5.1	7,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	40	41.5	40	41	16,019,300
DMCI Holdings Inc.- Pref.	495	495	495	495	620
Globe Telecom Hldg (Pdr)	680	680	680	680	100
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	151,000,000
RFM Corp. - Pref.	3.45	3.5	3.45	3.5	266,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.25	10.25	1,900
Philweb.Com Inc. -Warrants	0.029	0.03	0.028	0.029	31,700,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.5	5.6	5.4	5.5	4,063,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	120,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.29	0.3	0.28	0.28	3,300,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	1,110,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	1,110,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	10,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.22	2.22	2.2	2.22	1,232,000
City & Land Developers	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	11,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.26	700,000
Mrc Allied Ind. Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.2	0.23	3,020,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.12	0.12	0.11	0.115	350,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.5	6.6	6.5	6.5	1,836,000
Universal Rightfield Prop	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	300,000
Zipporah Rlty Hldgs Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	45,850,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	1,000,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.72	1.8	1.72	1.8	13,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.06	0.0725	0.06	0.0675	282,600,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines B	0.0625	0.0725	0.0625	0.0675	36,100,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	200,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0065	0.0065	0.006	0.006	14,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	83,000,000
Omico Corporation	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	18,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.02	0.021	0.018	0.018	43,900,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.38	0.39	0.35	0.35	1,700,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.4	0.41	0.37	0.37	4,000,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	300,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.022	0.022	0.018	0.018	15,900,000
Interport Res.	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	12,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	38,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	1,000,000
Pacifica	0.017	0.017	0.016	0.016	11,800,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	500,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	20,000

CURRENCIES

June 22, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.168907	1.000000	52.1010
Japan	Yen	0.009384	0.008028	0.4183
United Kingdom	Pound	1.654588	1.415500	73.7490
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.150053	0.128370	6.6882
Switzerland	Franc	0.657613	0.562588	29.3114
Canada	Dollar	0.767301	0.656426	34.2005
Singapore	Dollar	0.641728	0.548998	28.6033
Australia	Dollar	0.605652	0.518135	26.9954
Bahrain	Dinar	3.100714	2.652661	138.2063
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.311709	0.266667	13.8936
Brunei	Dollar	0.640146	0.547645	28.5329
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000103	0.000088	0.0046
Thailand	Baht	0.025861	0.022124	1.1527
UAE	Dirham	0.318330	0.272331	14.1887
Korea	Won	0.000899	0.000769	0.0401
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.855500	44.5724
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.43741	22.7895
France	Franc	0.152450	0.130420	6.7950
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.388209	20.2261
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.062172	3.2392
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.021207	1.1049
Italy	Lire	0.000517	0.000442	0.0230
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.143885	7.4966
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004267	0.2223
Spain	Peseta	0.006011	0.005142	0.2679
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024789	0.021207	1.1049
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.086261	56.5953

New thrift bank in Davao gets BSP approval

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

THE MONETARY Board of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas has approved the application of International Finance Corp., Planters' Development Bank and three European development lenders to put up Micro Enterprise Bank in Davao City.

BSP Deputy Governor Alberto Reyes yesterday said the new thrift bank would focus on small and micro enterprises applying for loans amounting from P10,000 to P200,000.

Micro Enterprise Bank is the second micro lender approved by the BSP this year.

Micro Enterprise has a paid-up capital of P60 million. It is 40 percent owned by Planters' Bank, 10 percent by the World Bank and another 10 percent by the Netherlands Development Finance Co. The remaining 40 percent is shared by Internationale Micro Investitionen AG, a German micro-finance company, and Stichting Duurzame Ontwikkeling En Natuurbescherming Postcodeloterij-Doen, a Dutch foundation for sustainable development.

The bank will prioritize Mindanao but it will also put up branches in other regions. It will provide competitively priced funding to small local entrepreneurs who have been "under-served" by normal channels of financing, said Planters' Development Bank chair Jesus Tambunting.

Last month, the BSP approved the application of Opportunity Microfinance Bank Inc., a micro lender that will operate in Antipolo, Rizal. It has an authorized capital stock of P800 million with an initial paid-up capital of P58.1 million.

Reyes said at least three other applications for microfinance banks were pending with the Monetary Board.

He said the entry of micro-finance banks provided low-income households the opportunity to raise their earnings and improve their living standards.

Micro lenders will apply in their operations the group lending scheme to make collection easier and to minimize risks, Reyes said. The target borrowers, he added, include sari-sari stores and other small businesses that yield daily or weekly income.

The BSP said existing banks, especially thrift and rural banks, could also apply to expand their operations to include micro financing.

Neda activates facility for dev't projects of LGUs

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

THE NATIONAL Economic and Development Authority is pooling resources to activate a facility that will finance development projects of the country's poorest local government units.

In a statement yesterday, the Neda said it would activate the development fund that was conceptualized in 1996 to finance the LGUs' development projects in their pre-implementation phase.

The facility, called the Project Development and Monitoring Fund (PDMF), was an offshoot of the Official Development Assistance law. The fund specifically targets fourth to sixth class LGUs to help promote equitable growth and development in all provinces.

Although the ODA law was passed several years ago, it was only this year that the national government has obtained seed money for the fund. The Japanese government initially infused into the fund P34 million.

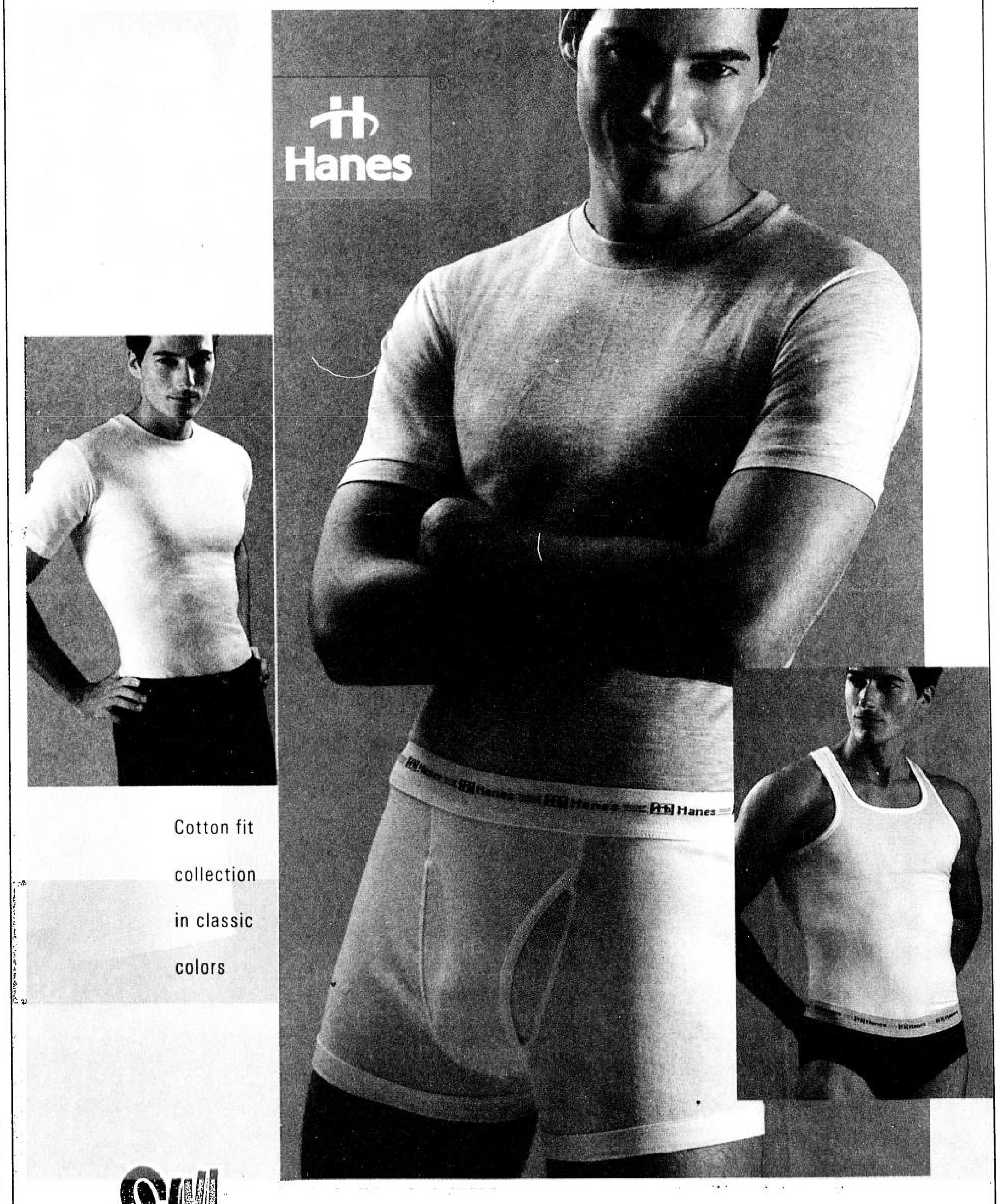
PDMF will be funded through grants from various donor countries. The facility can be tapped for project identification, feasibility studies, master planning at the local and regional levels, and monitoring and evaluation activities.

The Neda statement indicated that 36 projects in 12 regions in the country have been approved so far for funding.

Projects lined up for financing include integrated livelihood development projects for farmers and fisher folks in selected municipalities in Regions I, II, and VI; an inter-local networking among three municipalities in Quezon province, and an integrated upland agriculture management in Albay.

Infrastructure projects in support of livelihood development are targeted for areas in Regions VII, IX, X, and XI, while two municipalities in Samar gear up for programs on poverty alleviation.

At the Men's Wear Department



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Most importantly, we thank the Administration of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo for helping to ensure that the rule of law, due process, and a fair and impartial judiciary is the order of the day for the Philippine legal system.

To show our thanks, we invite the entire community to join us for Grand Reopening festivities Saturday and Sunday, June 23rd and 24th. On Saturday there will be free food, drinks and entertainment from noon to 7:00PM. Everyone is encouraged to visit S&R Price, shop and see first hand our everyday low prices and best value.

S&R Price believes in the Philippines! Without the support of the Philippine people, we wouldn't be here. Please accept this invitation and allow to offer our humble thanks in person.

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Gilbert Partida
President/CEO

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late EUSEBIO M. MINAS of Sta. Cruz Zambales has been extrajudicially settled among his heirs as per Doc No 89; Page No 18; Book No I; Series of 2001 before Notary Public Al I Perreras PTR No. 18 25292 whose Commission expires on 31 December 2001.
(PDI- 6/ 23,30 & 7/ 7/2001)

Notice is hereby given that the deposits of the late Glenda Y. Aricheta has been extrajudicially settled by heirs on June 16, 2001 under Doc.# 695; Page # 71; Book No. III; Series of 2001 before Notary Public Atty. Antonio G. Malonzo PDI-(June 23, 30 & July 7, 2001)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late JUANITO M. SILVESTRE has been extrajudicially settled by his heirs on June 7, 2001 under Doc#105, Page#22, Book#11, Series of 2001 before Notary Public Atty. Primitivo C. Cruz (PDI June 9,16,23,2001)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that the ff. Official Receipts of SkyCable Series#70101A-70150A,70151A-70200A were lost. Any Transaction covered by any said receipts will be honored by SkyCable

This is to notify the Public that the Dangerous Drug Board ID# 16613N99 of Dra. Ma. Aleli De Guzman was lost.

PERSONAL

THANK YOU ST. JUDE CHUCK BURDETTE AND FAMILY

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
PROCUREMENT & LOGISTICS SERVICE
Bldg.#26 San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila
Tel.No. (632) 743-83-01 loc. 3626 & 3627

June 15, 2001

INVITATION FOR BIDS

IFB NO. 2001-7-31 [3]

The Department of Health hereby invites sealed written bids for the Procurement of Various Pharmaceuticals for the use of the different Services and Programs chargeable against their funds.

Only responsible and duly accredited suppliers/manufacturers and/ or exclusive distributors of the products as certified by the Department of Health Accreditation Supplier's Committee/BFAD are qualified to participate for the :

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF VARIOUS PHARMACEUTICALS

Copy of the list of Drugs and Medicines with specifications and quantities are available at the Procurement and Logistics Service, Bldg. No. 26, Department of Health, Sta. Cruz, Manila.

Bidding documents can be secured upon payment of non-refundable fee of two thousand (P2,000.00) Pesos only and upon presentation of the following:

1. Authenticated DOH Supplier's Accreditation Certificate with the list of accredited products.
2. Authenticated Certificate of Product Registration
3. Authenticated License to Operate

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES:

Issuance of Bid Documents	: June 25 to July 27, 2001	8:00 to 5:00
Pre-Bid Conference	: July 10, 2001	10:00 a.m.
Deadline for Submission of Bids	: July 31, 2001	10:00 a.m.
Opening of Bids	: July 31, 2001	10:00 a.m.

All activities shall be held at the San Lazaro Hospital Amphitheater, Department of Health, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila unless announced otherwise.

Each bid must be accompanied by a Bid Security of not less than two and a half-percent (2.5%) of the total amount of bid in the form of the following: (a) Manager's Check (b) Certified or Cashier's Check (c) Irrevocable Letter of Credit issued by a reputable bank (d) Bank Guarantee or Bank Draft issued by a reputable bank. (e) any combination of the above proportionate to share of form with respect to total amount of security.

For further information, please contact the Procurement Division, Procurement and Logistics Service, Bldg. No. 26, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila or call 7438301 locals 3626/3627 or 3383413 & 3383414.

The Department of Health reserves the right to accept or reject any bid and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at anytime prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the Department of Health..

By Authority of the Secretary of Health:
(Sgd.) **ZENAIDA O. LUDOVICE, M.D., M.P.H., CESO II**
Assistant Secretary of Health
Chairperson, Central Office Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – June 20 & 23, 2001)

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID
SLRC-2001-07A

The Southern Luzon Regional Center (SLRC), NPC wishes to invite interested parties to prequalify and to bid on the items listed below:

SCHEDULE		ITEM DESCRIPTION	PR NUMBER
		DATE OF BIDDING: JULY 16, 2001; 2:00 PM	
A1	1 LOT	CONTINOUS FORMS (VARIOUS SIZES)	3AFS01-016
A2	525MT	CAUSTIC SODA (SODIUM HYDROXIDE)	3MAK01-234
A3	1 LOT	CORRUGATED G.1 SHEETS, PAINTS, ETC.	3ADM01-108
A4	45PCS	HEAD LAMP	3PTG01-018
A5	1 LOT	JO-CONDUCT OF ANNUAL MEDICAL EXAM	3ADM01-104
A6	1 LOT	JO-REPAIR OF "ACER" COMPUTER NOTEBOOK	3PTG01-009
A7	1 LOT	GALVANIZING COMPOUND & SOLVENT	3LAG01-089
		DATE OF BIDDING: JULY 17, 2001; 2:00 PM	
B1	80 BAGS	GLASS BEADS (FOR SANDBLASTING)	3BAC01-002 3BAC01-018
B2	12 PCS	OIL FILTER ELEMENT (NKK FILTER)	3BAC01-216
B3	1 LOT	RTD, PLATINUM PT 100	3BAC01-282
B4	1249 PCS	CONNECTOR (WEDGE TYPE ALUMINUM)	3PTG01-028
B5	1 LOT	CABLE, TERMINAL LUGS	3BAC01-113
B6	1 LOT	POWER CABLE (VARIOUS SIZES)	3TIW00-070
B7	1 LOT	CURRENT & POTENTIAL TRANSFORMERS	3LAG01-038
		DATE OF BIDDING: JULY 18, 2001; 2:00 PM	
C1	1 UNIT	FLAME PHOTOMETER	3TIW01-001
C2	1 UNIT	WET TEST METER BAROMETER, ETC	3TIW01-002
C3	2 UNITS	DC MOTOR ("TUSIMA")	3BAC01-109
C4	1 LOT	JO-INSTALLATION OF POTTABLE WATER PIPELINE	3MAK01-197
C5	1 LOT	JO-ELECTRO-CHEMICAL METALIZING	3BAC01-190
C6	1 LOT	JO-REPAIR/CALIBRATION OF FLAME ANALYZER	3TIW01-012
C7	1 LOT	PRESSURE TRANSMITTERS/TRANSDUCERS	3BAC01-284

Complete sets of bidding documents and other particulars may be obtained from the Office of the Manager, Administration Division, SLRC, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna, upon payment of a non-refundable fees of P25.00 and P50.00 per schedule for single and two envelope, respectively starting June 28, 2001. No bid documents will be issued on the date of bidding.

Non-accredited suppliers can get prequalification papers and submit the same for evaluation not later than July 6, 2001 before they are allowed to bid

Only those prequalified shall be allowed to participate in the bidding. Bids will be received at the SLRC Bidding Room, NPC-SLRC, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna until 2:00 o'clock P.M. on the dates specified above after which said bids will be opened in the presence of attending bidders.

All bids regardless of price offer must be accompanied by Bidder's Bond in Cash or Certified Manger's / Cashier's Check, or a GSIS Surety Bond equivalent to five percent (5%) of the total bid price.

The NPC-SLRC reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at anytime prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligations to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the NPC-SLRC's action

(Sgd.) R. D. RAMAS
Manager, Administration

(PDI – June 23, 2001)

BUREAU OF TRADE
REGULATION AND
CONSUMER PROTECTION

NOTICE TO ALL BUSINESS

NAME REGISTRANTS

PURSUANT TO SECTION 12(A) OF DEPARTMENT ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 15 SERIES OF 1990. THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY THROUGH THE BUREAU OF TRADE REGULATION AND CONSUMER PROTECTION. CANCELS FROM THE RECORD ALL BUSINESS NAME REGISTRATIONS WHICH EXPIRED AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2000 EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2001.

UNDER THE BUSINESS NAME LAW (ACT NO. 3883), AS AMENDED, OWNERS OR PROPRIETORS SHOULD RENEW THEIR BUSINESS NAME REGISTRATION UPON EXPIRATION THEREOF.

THIS ANNOUNCEMENT SERVES AS A FORMAL NOTICE TO ALL CONCERNED. FOR STRICT COMPLIANCE.

(Sgd.) **Atty. Maria Teresa Arao-Mahiwo**
Director

(PDI – June 23, 2001)

INVITATION TO BID

A Manufacturing Company Proposes to Lease
a Building, Preferably New If Not New, Not Older than Two Years
With Insulated Roofing
Covered Area of Not Less Than 3000 sqm
Lot Area of Not Less Than 5000 sqm
Within the General Industrial Zone of an Industrial Park
in Laguna, Batangas or Cavite

Interested parties are requested to drop their bids not later than 26 June 2001 *at MK-65, c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, G/F Atrium Bldg., Makati Avenue, Makati City.*

(PDI – June 23, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
BOARD OF INVESTMENTS
Industry & Investments Building
385 Gil J. Puyat Avenue
Makati City
Fax No. 895-4024 Tel. Nos. 897-6682, 890-1332

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the application of DETALIA AURORA, INC. with address at Zone Paliya, Paknaan, Mandaue City Cebu for registration with the Board of Investments under Book I of the Omnibus Investments Code of 1987, otherwise known as E.O. 226, as amended by Republic Act 7918 as New Export Producer of Furniture, Furnishings and Accessories at a capacity of 15,000 pieces per year and with proposed plant site at Zone Paliya, Paknaan, Mandaue City, Cebu has been officially accepted on March 12, 2001 and is currently being processed.

Any person with valid objections to or pertinent comments on the above-mentioned application may file his/her objection, in writing and under oath, with the BOI within one (1) week from the date of this publication.

(Sgd.) DENNIS R. MIRALLES
Director
Investment Assistance Department

(PDI – June 23, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
BOARD OF INVESTMENTS
Industry & Investments Building
385 Gil J. Puyat Avenue
Makati City
Fax No. 895-4024 Tel. Nos. 897-6682, 890-1332

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the application of A2Z PHILIPPINES.NET, INC. with address at Ground Floor, Rivergate Commercial Complex, 49-A Mango Avenue, Cebu City for registration with the Board of Investments under Book I of the Omnibus Investments Code of 1987, otherwise known as E.O. 226 as amended by Republic Act 7918 as New Information Technology Services Operator at a capacity of 8,000 Subscribers Per Year and with proposed project site at Ground Floor, Rivergate Commercial Complex, 49-A Mango Avenue, Cebu City has been officially accepted on March 30, 2001 and is currently being processed.

Any person with valid objections to or pertinent comments on the above-mentioned application may file his/her objection, in writing and under oath, with the BOI within one (1) week from the date of this publication.

(Sgd.) DENNIS R. MIRALLES
Director
Investment Assistance Department

(PDI – June 23, 2001)

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TRiViA

By BONG BARRAMEDA

Dad's Day

Q. How did Father's Day originate, and why is it celebrated in June?

A. Father's Day was created as a reaction, perhaps even as an afterthought, to Mother's Day. The idea came to Mrs. Sonora Smart Dodd while listening to a Sunday church sermon in Spokane, Washington on Mother's Day in 1910–two years after the first Mother's Day observance in West Virginia.

During the sermon, which extolled maternal sacrifices made for children, Mrs. Dodd realized that in her own family it had been her father, William Jackson Smart, a Civil War veteran, who had sacrificed—raising herself and five sons alone, following the early death of his wife in childbirth. For Mrs Dodd, the hardships her father had endured on their eastern Washington farm called to mind the unsung feats of fathers everywhere. Her proposed Father's Day celebration received strong support from the town's ministers and members of the Spokane YMCA.

The date suggested for the festivities, June 5, Mrs. Dodd's father's birthday—a mere three weeks away—had to be moved back to the 19th when ministers claimed they needed extra time to prepare sermons on such a new subject as Father. In 1972—sixty-two years after it was first celebrated on June 19, 1910—Father's Day was permanently established by President Richard Nixon every third Sunday of June.

For the Record. The world's champion (one-wife) father is Gerardo Albina, 73, of San Antonio, Chile. With wife Leontina, 69, he has sired 55 children, the last one born in 1981. The prolific pair, who were married in 1943, had five sets of triplets (all boys) in this big brood, of which only 40 survive (24 boys and 16 girls).

WORD WATCH

Father (fa-dehr): from the Greek *pater*, 'male parent.'

PDI – June 23, 2001

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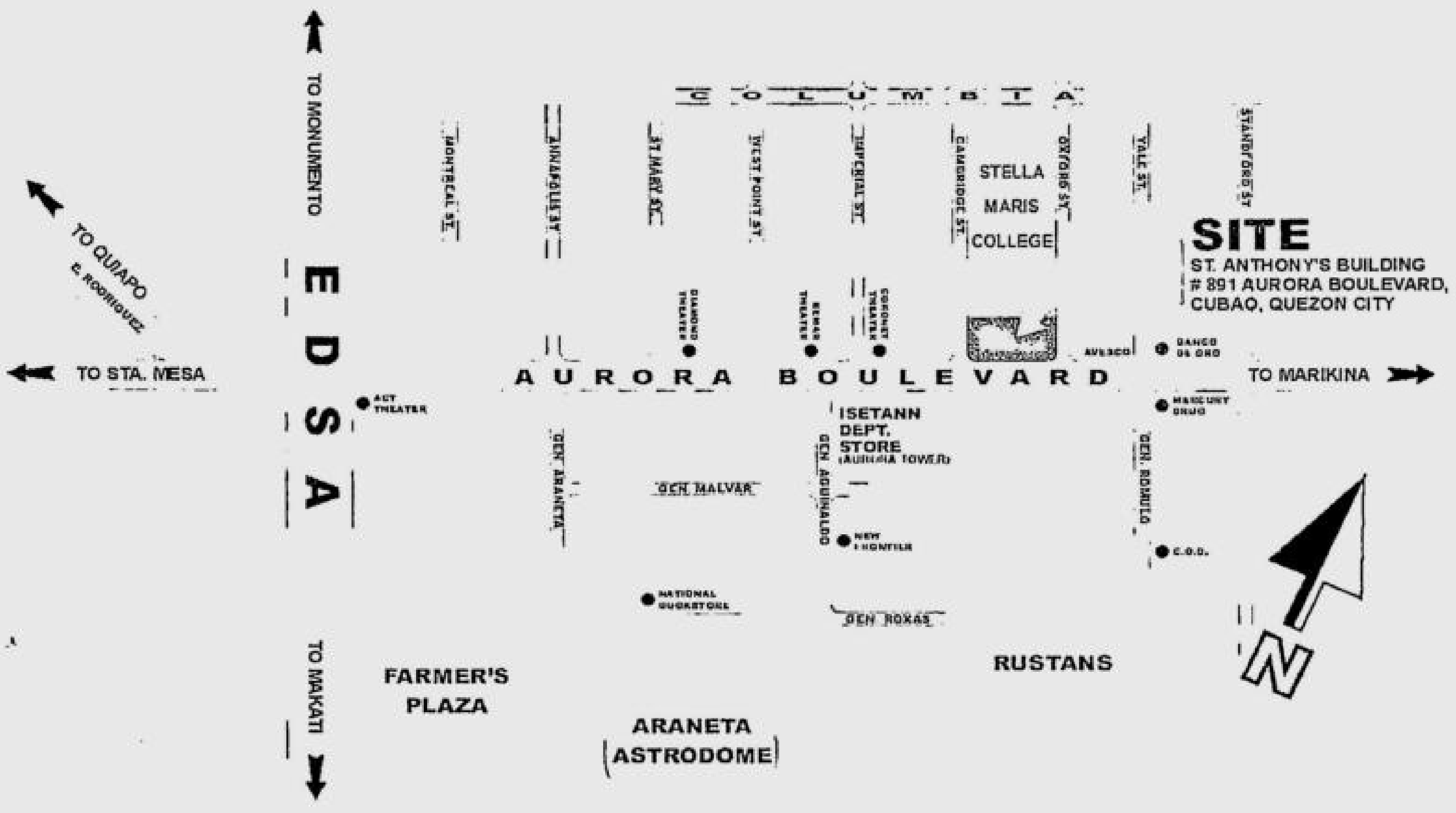

People, Events & Products

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor

Globe joins McDonald's 20th anniversary celebration

GLOBE Handyphone, the cellular phone service of Globe Telecom, has joined McDonald's Philippines as a digital cellular partner in celebrating the fastfood chain's 20th anniversary in the Philippines.

As part of the activities for McDonald's 20th anniversary, Globe Handyphone and McDonald's have offered free regular french fries to all Globe Handyphone subscribers. The french fries were "received" via Globe Txt Pass – a free, new value-added service from Globe that sends subscribers exciting offers. Subscribers were able to claim their free fries by simply flashing their Globe Txt Pass at any McDonald's outlet.

Also part of Globe Handyphone's activities with McDonald's is the offering of the first-ever McDonald's-Globe Handyphone Prepaid Plus Call Cards. Available in four collectible designs and coming in a special P200 denomination, the call cards will be sold in all McDonald's restaurants from June 20 to July 15.

Shown formalizing the agreements for the McDonald's anniversary projects are (first and second from left) Globe Telecom chief operations advisor Edward Ying and president and CEO Gerardo Ablaza Jr. and (second and first from right) McDonald's Philippines president and founder George Yang and managing director Joseph Lau.

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2001 ADIDAS TENNIS CHALLENGE

Adidas sales and marketing director Sonny Nebres (center) is flanked by CTW organizer Jovy Mamawal (left) and trade/promo officer Goody Custodio during the contract signing for the 2001 Adidas Tennis Challenge. Looking on are RP No. 1 Johnny Arcilla and national junior players JR Celestino and Christian Cuarto. The netfest is supported by Milo and Sports Kids.

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Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

"You will forever be in our hearts Mommy"

ISABEL SANTOS LAZARO

of Pulilan, Bulacan and Quezon City

Passed away in the grace of our Lord on June 21, 2001 at the age of 68.

Her loving husband **CELSO**; children **LIZ, DENNIS** and **VANGIE, CORINNE** and **ERWIN, JOY** and **EDWIN**; grandchildren **MACY, PAOLO, KEVIN, BETINA** and **MATTHEW**; brother **ALITO**; sister **MARIETA**; brothers and sisters-in-law; other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Arlington Memorial Chapels, 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on June 26, 2001 at the Krus sa Wawa Memorial Park, Bocaue, Bulacan.

MILA P. AJERO-FELIPE

Of Legaspi City and Quezon City

Joined her Creator last Thursday, June 21, 2001 at the age of 51 together with her beloved youngest son,
XAVIER A. FELIPE
[seven (7) years old]

Her loving husband **Atty. Ramon A. Felipe IV**; children: **Ramon V & Paula Leynes, Julius & Lovely Bautista, Milo, Amanda**; grandchildren: **Feorillo Miguel, Patrick Julius** and **Raphaela**; parents, **Edilberto & Charito Ajero**; parents-in-law, **Ramon & Aida Felipe, Jr.**; sister **Thelma Ajero-Acuña**; brothers, **Teddy, Noel & Dr. Raul, M.D.**; sisters-in-law, **Cecile, Annabel, Amelia & Marlene**; brothers-in-law, **Emeterio, Antero** and **Jesus**; nephews, nieces, other relatives and friends request the pious reader to pray for their eternal repose.

Their remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be at 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, June 27th, at Holy Cross Memorial Park, Novaliches, Quezon City, after the 2:00 p.m. Mass.

ANTONIO G. GASKELL

(1915 - 2001)
Peacefully joined his Creator on June 19, 2001.

His loving wife **Vicky**; children **Didith** and **Tony Cabuñag, Bobby** and **Mickey, Manny** and **Lisa, Monet, Joey, Tina** and **Mos Piamonte, Sonny** and **Mabel**; grandchildren and great grandchildren, sisters **Carmen, Lourdes, Chita, Monsy**; and brother-in-law **John Morrissey** request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Our Lady of Beautiful Love Parish, Merville Park Homes, Parañaque, Metro Manila.

Cremation will be on Sunday, June 24, 2001 at the Manila Memorial Park, after the 1:00 PM Mass at the Our Lady of Beautiful Love Parish.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."
John 3:16

EVELYN REYES SANTIAGO

of Malabon City and Quezon City

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on June 21, 2001 at the age of 55.

Her bereaved husband **Col. Mariano R. Santiago (Ret.)**; children **Armi Rose Santiago** and **Alfredo Deocampo, Jr., Mariano, Jr.** and **Ma. Theresa Santiago**, and **Mar Michael**; grandchildren **Aris, Acel** and **Maryn**, and other relatives request your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at Chapel B-6, South Wing La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, 24 June 2001 at Himlayang Pilipino, Tandang Sora St., Quezon City after the 1:30 p.m. Mass at La Funeraria Paz.

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"Mayen, you will always be a special part of us, the memories of your love and goodness will live with us and remain in our hearts forever"

EMMALYN ESPINOSA DIZON

Peacefully joined her Creator on June 22, 2001

We, her family **Ric** and **Linda** her loving parents; brothers and sisters **Eileen, Ronald** and **Annabel, Ricobert** and **Cecille, Erly May, Ricardo III, Alfred**, her caring and loving boyfriend, all her relatives and friends, request those whose lives have been touched by our beloved **Mayen** to pray for the repose of her soul as she is born into Eternal Life.

Her remains lie in state at Mt. Carmel Church, 4th Street, New Manila, Quezon City.

CESARIO A. RIVERA, JR.

of Bolbok, Batangas City

Peacefully joined his Creator on June 17, 2001 at the age of 59.

His remains lie in state at the Mary Help Christian Chapel, Betterliving Subd., Parañaque City and will be transferred to Basilica Immaculada Concepcion, Batangas City on June 21, 2001 after 9:00 a.m. Mass.

His relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Interment will be at 1:00 p.m., June 24, 2001 after the Holy Mass at the Basilica Immaculada Concepcion Church.

ENGR. EFIGENIO M. MAGSOMBOL

21 September 1914 - 21 June 2001
Peacefully joined our Savior

His beloved family:
Wife Cloe Santiago Magsombol
Daughter Patricia Ann M. Saquilayan
Son-in-law Ignacio V. Saquilayan
Granddaughters: Michelle Ann M. Saquilayan and Peggy Blanch M. Saquilayan

Now lying in state at WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH at Roxas corner Zamora, Sta. Ana, Manila. Remains will be brought to the Masonic Temple on 25 June for Masonic Rites at 7:00 PM. Cremation will be on June 26, 2001 at 12:00 NN.

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SCIENCE / HEALTH

CESAR D. MANGAWANG, Editor ■ STELLA O. GONZALES, Assistant Editor

Most Filipinos not keen on donating organs

BY TESSA R. SALAZAR

CORNEA, liver, heart, lungs, bone cartilage, kidney, pancreas, skin and bone marrow. These are just some of the 25 different organs and tissues that could now be successfully transplanted in the Philippines to save lives, said the National Kidney and Transplant Institute (NKTI).

Kidney transplant procedures in 26 hospitals now number 3,096. And there have been three heart transplants, 11 liver transplants, five pancreas/kidney transplants, three bone marrow transplants and 2,526 cornea transplants.

The latest breakthrough would be the first lung transplant at the Lung Center of the Philippines.

But first, there must be organs available to make the procedure possible. Despite the breakthroughs in modern transplant surgery, the Human Organ Preservation Effort (HOPE) laments that most Filipinos are not keen on donating their healthy organs when they die.

ALL smiles from those who received "the gift of life" from organ donors.

Among organ donors, only 10 percent come from cadaver donors while 90 percent come from live donors. Live donors are mostly relatives, friends, husbands or wives of patients.

In developed countries such as Spain, 98 percent of organ donors come from cadaver or brain-dead donors who volunteered their organs while they were still alive.

Cadaver or brain dead donors are those who were involved in accidents, assaults, had primary brain tumors and were irreversibly brain dead.

According to the NKTI, stroke victims who have become brain dead and patients who are comatose are the ideal donors. This is because their organs are still functioning.

In the Philippines, about 3,000 to 5,000 people are discovered to have end-stage renal failure or kidney failure every year and only about 1,500 of them can afford to avail of dialysis. The rest who can't afford it end up in the waiting list for kidney donors, and eventually most of them die.

According to HOPE transplant coordinator Rey M. Aranas, end-stage renal disease alone is the seventh most common cause of death in the country.

"They cannot be treated medically and their only hope is an organ donation," he said of end-stage renal disease patients.

Aranas is appealing to all hospitals to coordinate with HOPE at the NKTI in East Avenue, Quezon City for potential cadaver donors.

A cadaver's kidneys could be preserved for 36 to 48 hours. But it would be best for the patient who needs the kidney to be operated on as soon as possible to add to his or her chances of survival.

Top 10 myths on organ donation

MYTH: My body will be mutilated when my organs are harvested.

Fact: Donated organs are removed surgically, in a routine operation similar to gallbladder or appendix removal. Normal funeral arrangements are possible.

Myth: My family would be expected to pay for donating my organs.

Fact: A donor's family is not charged for donation. If a family believes it has been billed incorrectly, the family immediately should contact its local organ procurement organization.

Myth: I might want to donate one organ, but I do not want to donate everything.

Fact: You may specify what organs you want donated. Your wishes will be followed.

Myth: If I get involved in an accident and the hospital knows that I want to be a donor, the doctors will not try to save my life.

Fact: The medical team treating you is separate from the transplant team. The Human Organ Preservation Effort (HOPE) is not notified until all lifesaving efforts have failed and death has been determined. HOPE does not notify the transplant team until your family has consented to the donation.

Myth: I am not the right age for donation.

Fact: Organs may be donated from someone as young as a newborn. Age limits for organ donations no longer exist. However, the general age limit for tissue donation is 70.

Myth: If I donate, I would worry that the recipient and/or the recipient's family would discover my identity and cause more grief for my family.

Fact: Information about the donor is released by HOPE to the recipients only if the donor's family requests that it be provided.

Myth: My religion does not support donation.

Fact: All organized religions support donation, typically considering it a generous act that is the individual's choice.

Myth: Only heart, liver and kidneys can be transplanted.

Fact: The pancreas, lungs, small and large intestines, and the stomach also can be transplanted.

Myth: Wealthy people are the only people who receive transplants.

Fact: Anyone requiring a transplant is eligible for one. Arrangements can be made with the transplant hospital for individuals requiring financial assistance.

Myth: I have a history of medical illness. You would not want my organs or tissues.

Fact: At the time of death, HOPE will review medical and social histories to determine donor suitability on a case-by-case basis.

Why should you donate your organs

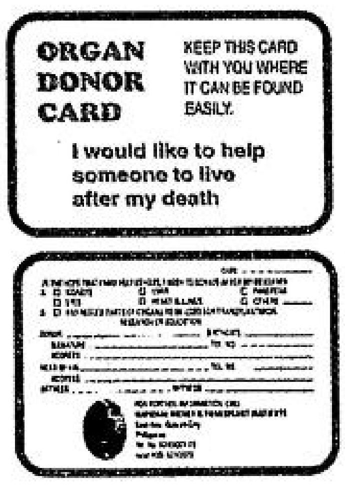
ORGAN or tissue donation is a voluntary act of humanity to help save the life of a patient who needs it.

To the Human Organ Preservation Effort (HOPE) of the National Kidney Transplant Institute, voluntary donation is the gift of life. Another person lives because of one's organ donation.

The Philippines, stressed HOPE, has the capability and the technology to perform different kinds of modern transplant surgeries. Transplantation is recommended when the illness cannot be treated medically anymore. The last option would be an organ replacement.

The donor's efforts are voluntary. The organ donated is given for free. HOPE transplant coordinator Rey Aranas said that in special cases, HOPE helps the brain dead donor's family with the medical expenses, burial and fare assistance. Most of the time, he said, this comes from the hospital's budget.

Aranas added that in the Philippines, a lot of cadaver donors come from the poor. They come mostly from the provinces and slum areas and were victims of vehicular accidents and assault such as shootouts and stabbing. The difficulty lies in the decision of the living relatives who must sign a legal consent for organs to be harvested from the deceased. Most of the time, Aranas said, the families of the potential donors are in the provinces and thus could not sign the consent form.



ORGAN DONOR CARD

KEEP THIS CARD WITH YOU WHERE IT CAN BE FOUND EASILY.

I would like to help someone to live after my death

There are two kinds of live donors. The first one is the living related donor—this could be one's father, mother, brother or sister, sons or daughters. Living non-related donors, meanwhile, are cousins, nieces, nephews, distant relatives and those who have emotional relationships with such as a husband, wife or a best friend.

The age group for live donors is 18 to 55 years old.

Brain-dead donors, on the other hand, are those who are comatose and are just being supported by ventilator or respirator, and those that have irreversible neurological damage. Donors should have no infectious and contagious diseases. They should not have cancer.

The age group for cadaver or brain-dead donors could be from birth to about 60 years old.

Those who wish to become an organ donor when they die can fill up an Organ Donor Card at the National Kidney and Transplant Institute on East Avenue, Quezon City, Tel. Nos. 9243601 to 19 local 405.

Tessa R. Salazar

The "stolen kidney" myth

THE ORIGINAL story comes from a "friend of a friend/cousin/neighbor" who is supposed to have walked into a bar and met an extremely beautiful girl who allows herself to be seduced by the friend. After a few drinks they go to a nearby hotel/motel. The next thing he remembers is waking up in a bathtub, filled with ice and a fresh incision scar on his back. After consulting his doctor, he finds out that one of his kidneys was removed and is warned that there is a syndicate specializing in stealing kidneys from healthy looking people, drugging them and performing the surgery in a hotel/motel room. The kidneys are then sold to wealthy people who need the organ.

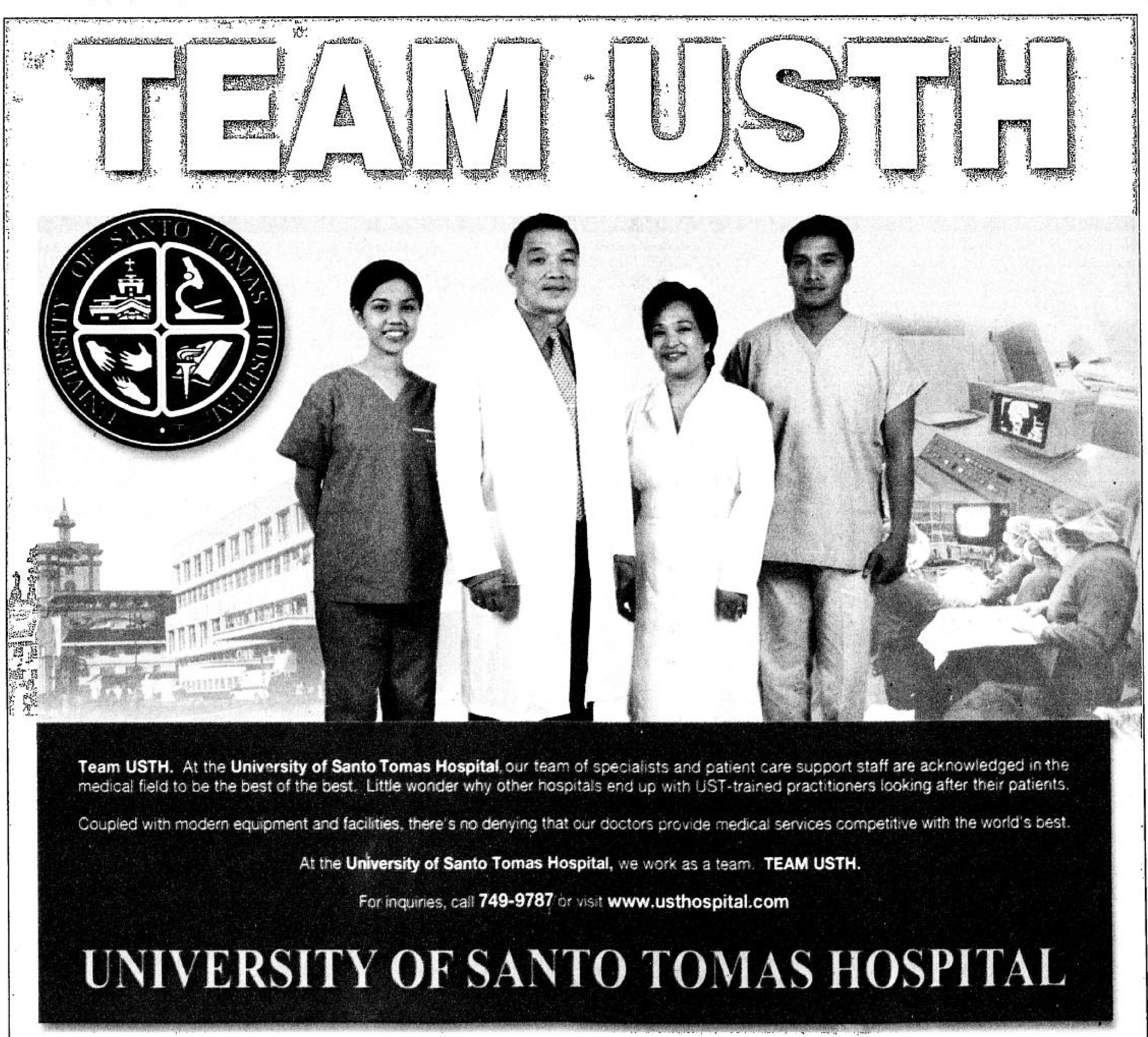
This story is actually a classic "urban legend," the sort of folklore that is passed by word of mouth, but all attempts to trace the source are confounded. There are several reasons this story is highly unlikely:

- A donor nephrectomy operation is a very delicate and demanding procedure. Unlike a simple nephrectomy wherein you remove a sick kidney, the healthy kidney that you remove in a donor nephrectomy operation has to be able to function when transplanted. The procedure emphasizes delicate tissue handling as well as maintaining the blood supply and length for easy transplantation.

These issues are difficult enough in a modern operating room, much less a motel room where transporting surgical lights, breakable surgical table drapes, instruments, anesthesia machines, vital signs monitors as well as catheters, sutures, and other consumables without anyone seeing them is impossible.

- Virtually no one uses ice anymore to take care of fresh surgical wounds.
- Unless it is done to a lot of victims, it is difficult to find a good match for the relatively small number of wealthy recipients.

Human Organ Preservation Effort (HOPE)



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UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS HOSPITAL

The dangers of dengue

THE RAINY season is starting to set in and along with the pouring rain comes various diseases, which all of us should be aware of. Most common and prevalent among these is the dreaded dengue.

The health department declared June as Dengue Awareness Month and in support of this noteworthy undertaking, Asian Hospital and Medical Center, an acute tertiary care hospital in Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, scheduled to open near the end of the year, shares some facts about dengue, through the expertise of Dr. Thelma E. Tupasi, head of the AHMC Infectious Disease section

"Dengue is a mosquito-borne infection which is not just a national but a major international public health concern," says Dr. Tupasi, an alumna of the University of the Philippines and was a Fellow in Infectious Disease from the University of Washington and University of Virginia in the United States. She is now the president of the Tropical Disease Foundation and past president of the Western Pacific Society of Chemotherapy.

With her background and proven track record as infectious disease specialist, Dr. Tupasi states that dengue is found mainly in tropical and subtropical regions around the world and Southeast Asia and the Western Pacific are most seriously affected.

The transmitters of the disease are the day-biting mosquitoes Aedes Aegypti and Aedes Albopictus, which lay eggs in clear water containers, such as flower vases, cans, rain barrels and old rubber tires. This means that anybody, whether living in slum areas or in exclusive subdivision, can be afflicted with dengue.

Dr. Tupasi further explains that the dengue virus infection may result to dengue fever or dengue hemorrhagic fever. Dengue fever is most common in older children and adults. Symptoms include abrupt onset of high fever with headache, pain behind the eyes, muscle and joint pains, and rash.

Dengue hemorrhagic fever, on the other hand, is a potentially deadly complication most common among children less than 15 years of age. The illness commonly begins with a sudden rise in temperature accompanied by facial flush, as well as the symptoms associated with dengue fever. In severe cases, circulatory failure may occur.

Although there is no specific treatment for dengue fever, Dr. Tupasi stresses that prevention is still the best cure. Primarily, dengue can be prevented by disposing all possible breeding places for mosquitoes such as tin cans, rubber tires and bottles. Accumulated water from trees and plants should be drained and water in flower vases should be changed more frequently. Water containers should be covered properly and house gutters must be cleaned to prevent stagnation of rainwater.

Giving pains the cold treatment

THESE days; we certainly have it easy. Got a muscle strain or cramps? Put on a cold patch, and you get instant relief. But, as conveniently modern as that may sound, using a cold patch as a remedy for strains or sprains actually dates back to 400 BC, during the time of Hippocrates, the so-called father of medicine.

The idea behind the cold quick-fix has withstood the centuries. Sprains and strains, stretch and tear tissues, causing swelling. Swelling interferes with the healing process, and must be prevented or reduced quickly to aid recovery. Applying a cold agent to the area where you feel pain shrinks blood vessels, reducing bleeding and helping prevent swelling.

Present-day medical practitioners recommend the application of cold therapy within 48 hours of a strain or sprain. For example, if you overexert yourself following your first basketball game in 10 years, slap on a cold patch over the aching part of your body the first chance you can, and you'll feel cool relief seep into your body immediately after.

Give sprains and strains the cold treatment. It is instant pain relief trusted through time.

For your sprains and strains, try a cold patch today. Hisamitsu, makers of Salonpas, recently introduced a cold patch to the market.

AIDS in the Philippines: A landmark law

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

(Third of four parts)

IN 1998, then President Fidel Ramos signed into law Republic Act 8504, formalizing the passage of the AIDS Prevention and Control Law. The objectives of the AIDS Law are boldly proclaimed thus: "promulgating policies and prescribing measures for the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS in the Philippines, instituting a nationwide HIV/AIDS information and educational program, establishing a comprehensive HIV/AIDS monitoring system, strengthening the Philippine National AIDS Council (PNAC) , and others."

In the past two weeks we have scrutinized in some depth the misconceptions many people have about HIV/AIDS, the physical processes the body undergoes when infected with HIV, and the epidemiology of HIV/AIDS in the Philippines vis-à-vis the rest of the world. We have started discussing measures everyone can take to combat this disease, and we have enumerated a list of pertinent government activities. Let us now focus on what may eventually be our country's most significant effort yet—the AIDS Law.

Recent news stories and features about AIDS cannot help but include RA 8504, yet most media coverage of the law is limited to a cursory mention or a parenthetical addendum. Due to lack of space or time, brief news flashes of course cannot do justice to the various ramifications of this law. However, after painstakingly going through the minutiae of the numerous provisions, I have realized that the AIDS Law is certainly a good enough piece of legislation, given the relatively fast rate of its enactment, and the compromises among its multisectoral discussants. It is about time that all of us become more conscious of this undertaking, since one of the initial ways to fight AIDS is to know our national legislated rights and responsibilities toward this issue.

How did RA 8504 come about? In the mid-1990s, the Philippine government initiated a project to create comprehensive legislation, which deals with the national HIV/AIDS situation. The PNAC wanted to ensure that the different dimensions of this issue would be thoroughly threshed out—medical, social, economic, religious, ethical, and so forth. Thus, the PNAC facilitated the involvement of different sectors of society, from Pinoy Plus (which as we have seen last week, is an organization of people living with HIV/AIDS) to the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines.

With active participation by government, NGOs, religious, academe, medical community, and PWAs (people with AIDS), the process gained momentum. A report by the United Nations AIDS (UNAIDS) summarizes the process succinctly: "Support for the draft law was marshaled by building commitment among influential stakeholders, notably then-President Ramos. President Ramos raised the profile of the draft law by declaring 1997 the Philippines' year for HIV/AIDS prevention and by designating the passage of the law as an urgent measure for consideration by Congress."

What are the main provisions of the AIDS Law? First, in order to more confidently deal with the various aspects of HIV/AIDS, we have to be well-informed. Thus, there exists a mandate for a comprehensive nationwide education and information campaign, targeted at the general public. Special sections include HIV/AIDS education in schools, in communities (through local government units), and in the workplace. In the latter section, I was gratified to note that all government employees are supposed to be provided with standard basic information and instruction—and that these employees include the Armed Forces and the Philippine National Police. Tourists and transients are also not neglected, and (as we have seen last week) since many overseas Filipino workers are vulnerable, they shall be the recipients of instruction as well. Instruction revolves mainly around the causes of AIDS, means of transmission, consequences, and preventive and control measures. And since probably the most effective instructors on this disease might be PWAs themselves, there are also provisions for utilizing the experience of these individuals in raising public awareness. (Sex worker turned DOH educator Sarah Jane Salazar readily comes to mind.)

Second, with information comes the power to act. The AIDS Law strongly advocates universal precautions in practices and procedures, which harbor the risk of HIV transmission. The use of prophylactics, requirements for blood, tissue or organ donation, guidelines for surgical procedures, penalties for unsafe practices, among others, are carefully discussed. In general, a consistent monitoring system nationwide is inserted into the bill.

Third, even if our Constitution guarantees enjoyment of basic human rights, these have to be reflected upon in the context of HIV/AIDS. Thus, the rights of Filipino citizens (those without HIV/AIDS, PWAs, and suspected PWAs) are emphasized. Blanket compulsory testing (except for certain cases) is prohibited—that is, in general, consent is required for HIV testing. Provisions have been made for anonymous testing and support for testing centers, hospital-based services and community-based services. Medical confidentiality is insisted upon (again except for certain cases), and penalties for breaching this are spelled out. I am pleased to note that the law tries its best to stem discrimination against PWAs or suspected PWAs by delineating acts and policies which can be considered discriminatory—and their corresponding penalties. After all, isn't the level of civility and humaneness in a society measured by how it treats the sick and the powerless?

Fourth, the role of government (with its attendant powers and responsibilities) has to be agreed upon. Thus, the reconstitution of the PNAC was debated upon in the Senate and Congress, until finally, it was agreed that it would be "strengthened to enable the council to oversee an integrated and comprehensive approach to HIV/AIDS prevention and control in the Philippines." Attached to the Department of Health (DOH), the council possesses a whole host of functions, from information dissemination, monitoring, coordination of NGO, government and other sectoral efforts, and cooperation with international organizations regarding data collection, research and treatment. Again I am glad to see the inclusion of provisions for accessible and affordable testing, counseling and other support services.

There are other areas, which are discussed in this approximately 25-page document, such as livelihood assistance for PWAs, but I believe the descriptions above are sufficient to convince us that RA 8504 is worth knowing. (I highly encourage readers—not only lawyers or doctors, but concerned citizens—to go through the intricacies of this law. Aside from the usual technical terms, I was relieved to discover that jargon is kept to a minimum, and I believe that with some concentration, readers can make sense of its provisions. The most convenient way of going through the full text is through the DOH website: www.doh.gov.ph/aids.)

It comes as no surprise that the United Nations considers the Philippine AIDS Law to be an exemplar of "best practice both in process and content." The avid multisectoral participation and support is the prime factor in its success—from brainstorming, information-gathering, debate and wording to final enactment. In its depiction of best practice, UNAIDS provides guidelines for other societies in their quest for good legislation. Their reflections are thought-provoking and worth quoting in full:

"A wide variety of lessons have been learned during the process of introducing this legislation, and in the short time following its adoption.

- Long-term commitment to continued engagement and debate is necessary to ensure the passage of HIV/AIDS legislation.
- Opponents who may at first seem unreachable can sometimes be convinced by good arguments and through gaining the support of influential stakeholders. One important example of the latter was the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines.
- It is sometimes necessary to be flexible in negotiations, but it is vital that the areas of compromise are carefully selected.
- Having a good law can be empowering. For example, with very limited promotion of RA 8504, sex workers in Davao were able to quote the law to local authorities who were arguing in favor of mandatory testing.
- Having a good HIV/AIDS law is just one step. There is a need for continued efforts to ensure that the law is fully implemented."

Finally, next week, we tackle the bottom line. Is a cure for AIDS in the horizon? Are there local health methods which can be utilized? Where can we go for help? Most importantly, what can we ordinary Filipinos do? *(Next week: Dealing with AIDS)*

* * *

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The case of the merry drinker

BY RAFAEL CASTILLO, MD

MEDICAL FILES

DON was probably the most amiable person one got to meet in the bar close to his office. He considered everyone—old acquaintances and newly met strangers—his good friends. At the drop of a hat, he would treat everyone to a round of drinks. A big round, with his favorite *pulutan* of bopis and chicharon included.

Don drank beer like it was mineral water. Instead of becoming quenched however, each bottle made him thirst for another one. And another, still another, and by the 12th or so bottle, he would conclude with his signature carol, "Today, let's drink and be merry, for when we die, in heaven there is no beer!" On many occasions, a relatively sober drinking buddy had to take him home.

Lucy, Don's wife of 11 years, and their only child, Aimee, tried all styles of persuasion to convince Don to give up the vice and be a sober husband and father when he went home from work. He would promise and would keep it for a few days, a week at most. The banging at the gate, instead of the more pleasant chime of the doorbell, would signal that he had broken his promise again.

Big surprise

This has been going on for years. It was a big surprise that Don was able to keep his job, and remain effective as an advertising manager. At the start of last year however, he started to feel weak and sluggish. His appetite waned and he lost close to 20 pounds since his last visit to their family physician for recurrent respiratory tract infections three months earlier.

Don was admitted to the Manila Sanitarium and Hospital for an executive checkup. The hospital's chief resident in Internal Medicine, Dr. Elmer Linao, made the preliminary evaluation. He noted the muscle wasting in Don's 35-year-old body, redness of the palms (palmer erythema), and the small spiderlike veins on the chest (spider and angiomata). Correlating with Don's prominent history of drinking and progressive weight loss, he made an initial impression of alcoholic cirrhosis. The attending consultant agreed and subsequent laboratory examinations confirmed the initial impression.

Cirrhosis is the destruction of normal liver [illegible] that leaves nonfunctioning [illegible] surrounding areas of still functioning or viable liver tissue. In developed and underdeveloped countries, it is one of the top five leading causes of death, following heart diseases, cancer and severe infections.

Causes, symptoms

Alcohol and infection of the liver particularly with hepatitis B and C viruses are the most common causes of cirrhosis. Other causes are auto-immune diseases, bile duct obstruction, diabetes, severe malnutrition and use of certain drugs which are toxic to the liver.

Initially, patients with cirrhosis may remain completely without symptoms and appear to be well for many years. Chances are, Don already had mild cirrhosis since several years back. As the cirrhosis progresses, patients start to complain of weakness and loss of weight like Don had. If bile flow in the liver is obstructed, one may develop yellowing of the eyes and skin called jaundice, itching of the body, and small yellow skin nodules, especially around the eyelids. Malnutrition usually results due to the depressed appetite and the impaired absorption of fats and fat-soluble vitamins caused by the reduced production of bile salts by the liver.

One complication of cirrhosis is bleeding in the esophagus and stomach with vomiting of large amounts of fresh blood. This is caused by the rupture of big varicose veins in the esophagus (esophageal varices) formed by the high pressure in the veins that run from the intestine to the liver (portal hypertension). This increased pressure together with the malnutrition may result in accumulation of fluid in the abdomen called ascites. Kidney failure and liver encephalopathy, characterized by the deterioration of brain function because of the build-up of toxic substances normally removed in the blood by the liver, may also develop.

Aside from those shown by Don, other signs of longstanding cirrhosis may be noted such as curling up of the fingers (Dupuytren's contracture), breast enlargement in men (gynecomastia), salivary gland enlargement in the cheeks, hair loss, shrinking of the testes (testicular atrophy), and abnormal nerve function (peripheral neuropathy).

Diagnosis

For the diagnosis, one may request for an ultrasound scan, which may show an enlarged liver during the early stages of cirrhosis. This would shrink and become smaller in the later stages. A liver scan using a radioactive isotope shows the areas of the liver that are functioning and delineates the areas that are scarred. The results of liver function tests in the blood may sometimes be misleading and may still be normal in mild cases since only a small part of functioning liver tissues is necessary to carry out essential chemical functions. A definitive diagnosis is arrived at by doing a liver biopsy and examining the liver tissue microscopically.

Cirrhosis is a progressive disease if the cause is not eliminated, alcohol, in Don's case. The consoling news is that if a patient with alcoholic cirrhosis stops drinking, the scarring of the liver tissues also stops, although the scar tissues that had already formed, remain indefinitely. At least, quitting drinking can prevent the cirrhosis from getting worse. Most patients with mild alcoholic cirrhosis can still live normal lives so long as they cork their alcohol bottles permanently. In general, the prognosis or outcome is poorer in those with complications already such as vomiting of blood, ascites and abnormal brain function.

Liver cancer is one of the dreaded complications of cirrhosis. It may also occur from alcohol abuse but it is more common in cirrhosis caused by chronic hepatitis B or C infections, and other less common causes such as iron overload (hemochromatosis) and longstanding glycogen-storage disease.

Treatment

There's is no known definitive cure yet for cirrhosis. Treatment consists mainly of eliminating any identified cause such as alcohol, giving adequate nutrition and supplementing eliminating any identified cause such as alcohol, giving adequate nutrition and supplementing with vitamins and nutrients, and managing the complications as they arise.

In advanced cases, liver transplantation is being tried in some modern centers abroad. It has been tried here on a few occasions. The expense and complications however do not make it a cost-effective procedure in a third-world setting. If the underlying cause is also not removed, a transplanted liver will eventually develop cirrhosis.

Don has remained in a stable stage of cirrhosis since he was diagnosed last year. He has remained in the advertising firm he has worked for since he graduated from college. He no longer treats friends to a round of drinks like he used to; but every chance he gets, he treats everyone to a round of moving personal testimonial on how he has put a permanent plug on the beer bottle, and saved his life and marriage. And now, he is merrier than ever.

(Medical Files is based on the case studies of actual patients. Some information have been changed to hide the patient's identity. Apart from the medical information, it stresses the socio-psychological impact of disease on the patient. Dr. Castillo is a past president of the Philippine Heart Association/Philippine College of Cardiology. Mail comments or inquiries to Room 601, Medical Arts Center, Manila Doctors' Hospital, T.M. Kalaw, Ermita, Manila, or e-mail raffymd@i-manila.com.ph.)

Tiotropium efficacy for COPD shown

SAN FRANCISCO—Data from 13 scientific presentations of Boehringer Ingelheim's tiotropium, the first once-daily inhaled therapy being developed for the treatment of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), were presented at the 97th international conference of the American Thoracic Society.

COPD is the world's fourth-leading cause of death with approximately three million people dying each year from the smoking-related respiratory illness.

Overall, the data reveal that treatment with tiotropium may result in significant therapeutic benefit for COPD patients. Among the findings presented:

- Once-a-day administration of tiotropium in clinical trials was reported to improve lung function and symptoms over a 24-hour period. Current medications require dosing two to four times a day.
- Tiotropium reduced dyspnea, or shortness of breath, over the course of a one-year study. Dyspnea is the reason most patients seek medical attention and is a major cause of disability and anxiety associated with the disease.
- Tiotropium was effective in reducing the frequency of exacerbations in long-term studies. Exacerbations are characterized by a marked worsening in symptoms such as dyspnea, resulting in an increase in therapy and hospitalization. Exacerbations are also associated with a significant increase in healthcare resource utilization.
- New findings also indicate that tiotropium is equally effective in women as in men. (The Global Initiative for Chronic Obstructive Lung Disease (GOLD) estimates that the number of women suffering from COPD will increase significantly, reflecting rising smoking rates among women.)

Very encouraging

Prof. Romain Pauwels of the University Hospital in Ghent, Belgium, said the results were "very encouraging." Dr. Pauwels, who presented data on tiotropium's effectiveness in reducing exacerbations said, "The findings indicate that tiotropium improved lung function of patients over a one-year period. As physicians, the overall goals of effective management of COPD include promoting smoking cessation, optimizing lung function, reducing exacerbations and improving quality of life. Tiotropium will contribute greatly to the management of this disabling disease."

"This is very important news for COPD patients," said Dr. Paul W. Jones of St. George's Hospital in London, who presented health status data in COPD. "The nature of this disease is such that it imposes immense limitations on patients' capabilities. Any improvement in their everyday quality of life will be extremely well received."

Tiotropium, currently in development, was discovered by Boehringer Ingelheim. The company has filed an application for marketing approval with regulatory authorities in Europe, where the product could be available as early as mid-2002. In the United States, Boehringer Ingelheim plans to file a new drug application (NDA) by the end of this year. Last month, Boehringer Ingelheim and Pfizer Inc. announced plans to jointly market tiotropium worldwide under the brand name Spiriva. Tiotropium could be available in the Philippine market by mid-2002.

COPD is caused primarily by smoking. The World Health Organization estimates there are currently 600 million people worldwide who suffer from COPD.

Beneficial

"At Boehringer Ingelheim, we are proud to have developed a product that will clearly benefit the whole COPD community," said Dr. Andreas Barner, member of Boehringer Ingelheim's board of managing directors, responsible for research, development and medicine.

The Boehringer Ingelheim group of companies, headquartered in Ingelheim, Germany, is one of the 20 leading pharmaceutical corporations in the world. In 2000, it posted revenues of more than EUR 6 billion.

Boehringer Ingelheim, which has some 140 affiliated companies worldwide, focuses on human pharmaceuticals and animal health. The human pharmaceuticals business, which accounts for 95 percent of sales, is comprised of prescription medicines, consumer health care products and chemicals and biopharmaceuticals for industrial customers.

Pfizer Inc. discovers, develops, manufactures and markets leading prescription medicines for humans and animals, and many of the world's best-known consumer products.

The dangers of dengue

THE RAINY season is starting to set in and along with the pouring rain comes various diseases, which all of us should be aware of. Most common and prevalent among these is the dreaded dengue.

The health department declared June as Dengue Awareness Month and in support of this noteworthy undertaking, Asian Hospital and Medical Center, an acute tertiary care hospital in Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, scheduled to open near the end of the year, shares some facts about dengue, through the expertise of Dr. Thelma E. Tupasi, head of the AHMC Infectious Disease section

"Dengue is a mosquito-borne infection which is not just a national but a major international public health concern," says Dr. Tupasi, an alumna of the University of the Philippines and was a Fellow in Infectious Disease from the University of Washington and University of Virginia in the United States. She is now the president of the Tropical Disease Foundation and past president of the Western Pacific Society of Chemotherapy.

With her background and proven track record as infectious disease specialist, Dr. Tupasi states that dengue is found mainly in tropical and subtropical regions around the world and Southeast Asia and the Western Pacific are most seriously affected.

The transmitters of the disease are the day-biting mosquitoes Aedes Aegypti and Aedes Albopictus, which lay eggs in clear water containers, such as flower vases, cans, rain barrels and old rubber tires. This means that anybody, whether living in slum areas or in exclusive subdivision, can be afflicted with dengue.

Dr. Tupasi further explains that the dengue virus infection may result to dengue fever or dengue hemorrhagic fever. Dengue fever is most common in older children and adults. Symptoms include abrupt onset of high fever with headache, pain behind the eyes, muscle and joint pains, and rash.

Dengue hemorrhagic fever, on the other hand, is a potentially deadly complication most common among children less than 15 years of age. The illness commonly begins with a sudden rise in temperature accompanied by facial flush, as well as the symptoms associated with dengue fever. In severe cases, circulatory failure may occur.

Although there is no specific treatment for dengue fever, Dr. Tupasi stresses that prevention is still the best cure. Primarily, dengue can be prevented by disposing all possible breeding places for mosquitoes such as tin cans, rubber tires and bottles. Accumulated water from trees and plants should be drained and water in flower vases should be changed more frequently. Water containers should be covered properly and house gutters must be cleaned to prevent stagnation of rainwater.

Giving pains the cold treatment

THESE days; we certainly have it easy. Got a muscle strain or cramps? Put on a cold patch, and you get instant relief. But, as conveniently modern as that may sound, using a cold patch as a remedy for strains or sprains actually dates back to 400 BC, during the time of Hippocrates, the so-called father of medicine.

The idea behind the cold quick-fix has withstood the centuries. Sprains and strains, stretch and tear tissues, causing swelling. Swelling interferes with the healing process, and must be prevented or reduced quickly to aid recovery. Applying a cold agent to the area where you feel pain shrinks blood vessels, reducing bleeding and helping prevent swelling.

Present-day medical practitioners recommend the application of cold therapy within 48 hours of a strain or sprain. For example, if you overexert yourself following your first basketball game in 10 years, slap on a cold patch over the aching part of your body the first chance you can, and you'll feel cool relief seep into your body immediately after.

Give sprains and strains the cold treatment. It is instant pain relief trusted through time.

For your sprains and strains, try a cold patch today. Hisamitsu, makers of Salonpas, recently introduced a cold patch to the market.

AIDS in the Philippines: A landmark law

(Third of four parts)

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

IN 1998, then President Fidel Ramos signed into law Republic Act 8504, formalizing the passage of the AIDS Prevention and Control Law. The objectives of the AIDS Law are boldly proclaimed thus: "promulgating policies and prescribing measures for the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS in the Philippines, instituting a nationwide HIV/AIDS information and educational program, establishing a comprehensive HIV/AIDS monitoring system, strengthening the Philippine National AIDS Council (PNAC) , and others."

In the past two weeks we have scrutinized in some depth the misconceptions many people have about HIV/AIDS, the physical processes the body undergoes when infected with HIV, and the epidemiology of HIV/AIDS in the Philippines vis-à-vis the rest of the world. We have started discussing measures everyone can take to combat this disease, and we have enumerated a list of pertinent government activities. Let us now focus on what may eventually be our country's most significant effort yet—the AIDS Law.

Recent news stories and features about AIDS cannot help but include RA 8504, yet most media coverage of the law is limited to a cursory mention or a parenthetical addendum. Due to lack of space or time, brief news flashes of course cannot do justice to the various ramifications of this law. However, after painstakingly going through the minutiae of the numerous provisions, I have realized that the AIDS Law is certainly a good enough piece of legislation, given the relatively fast rate of its enactment, and the compromises among its multisectoral discussants. It is about time that all of us become more conscious of this undertaking, since one of the initial ways to fight AIDS is to know our national legislated rights and responsibilities toward this issue.

How did RA 8504 come about? In the mid-1990s, the Philippine government initiated a project to create comprehensive legislation, which deals with the national HIV/AIDS situation. The PNAC wanted to ensure that the different dimensions of this issue would be thoroughly threshed out—medical, social, economic, religious, ethical, and so forth. Thus, the PNAC facilitated the involvement of different sectors of society, from Pinoy Plus (which as we have seen last week, is an organization of people living with HIV/AIDS) to the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines.

With active participation by government, NGOs, religious, academe, medical community, and PWAs (people with AIDS), the process gained momentum. A report by the United Nations AIDS (UNAIDS) summarizes the process succinctly: "Support for the draft law was marshaled by building commitment among influential stakeholders, notably then-President Ramos. President Ramos raised the profile of the draft law by declaring 1997 the Philippines' year for HIV/AIDS prevention and by designating the passage of the law as an urgent measure for consideration by Congress."

What are the main provisions of the AIDS Law? First, in order to more confidently deal with the various aspects of HIV/AIDS, we have to be well-informed. Thus, there exists a mandate for a comprehensive nationwide education and information campaign, targeted at the general public. Special sections include HIV/AIDS education in schools, in communities (through local government units), and in the workplace. In the latter section, I was gratified to note that all government employees are supposed to be provided with standard basic information and instruction—and that these employees include the Armed Forces and the Philippine National Police. Tourists and transients are also not neglected, and (as we have seen last week) since many overseas Filipino workers are vulnerable, they shall be the recipients of instruction as well. Instruction revolves mainly around the causes of AIDS, means of transmission, consequences, and preventive and control measures. And since probably the most effective instructors on this disease might be PWAs themselves, there are also provisions for utilizing the experience of these individuals in raising public awareness. (Sex worker turned DOH educator Sarah Jane Salazar readily comes to mind.)

Second, with information comes the power to act. The AIDS Law strongly advocates universal precautions in practices and procedures, which harbor the risk of HIV transmission. The use of prophylactics, requirements for blood, tissue or organ donation, guidelines for surgical procedures, penalties for unsafe practices, among others, are carefully discussed. In general, a consistent monitoring system nationwide is inserted into the bill.

Third, even if our Constitution guarantees enjoyment of basic human rights, these have to be reflected upon in the context of HIV/AIDS. Thus, the rights of Filipino citizens (those without HIV/AIDS, PWAs, and suspected PWAs) are emphasized. Blanket compulsory testing (except for certain cases) is prohibited—that is, in general, consent is required for HIV testing. Provisions have been made for anonymous testing and support for testing centers, hospital-based services and community-based services. Medical confidentiality is insisted upon (again except for certain cases), and penalties for breaching this are spelled out. I am pleased to note that the law tries its best to stem discrimination against PWAs or suspected PWAs by delineating acts and policies which can be considered discriminatory—and their corresponding penalties. After all, isn't the level of civility and humaneness in a society measured by how it treats the sick and the powerless?

Fourth, the role of government (with its attendant powers and responsibilities) has to be agreed upon. Thus, the reconstitution of the PNAC was debated upon in the Senate and Congress, until finally, it was agreed that it would be "strengthened to enable the council to oversee an integrated and comprehensive approach to HIV/AIDS prevention and control in the Philippines." Attached to the Department of Health (DOH), the council possesses a whole host of functions, from information dissemination, monitoring, coordination of NGO, government and other sectoral efforts, and cooperation with international organizations regarding data collection, research and treatment. Again I am glad to see the inclusion of provisions for accessible and affordable testing, counseling and other support services.

There are other areas, which are discussed in this approximately 25-page document, such as livelihood assistance for PWAs, but I believe the descriptions above are sufficient to convince us that RA 8504 is worth knowing. (I highly encourage readers—not only lawyers or doctors, but concerned citizens—to go through the intricacies of this law. Aside from the usual technical terms, I was relieved to discover that jargon is kept to a minimum, and I believe that with some concentration, readers can make sense of its provisions. The most convenient way of going through the full text is through the DOH website: www.doh.gov.ph/aids.)

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Causes, symptoms

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"At Boehringer Ingelheim, we are proud to have developed a product that will clearly benefit the whole COPD community," said Dr. Andreas Barner, member of Boehringer Ingelheim's board of managing directors, responsible for research, development and medicine.

The Boehringer Ingelheim group of companies, headquartered in Ingelheim, Germany, is one of the 20 leading pharmaceutical corporations in the world. In 2000, it posted revenues of more than EUR 6 billion.

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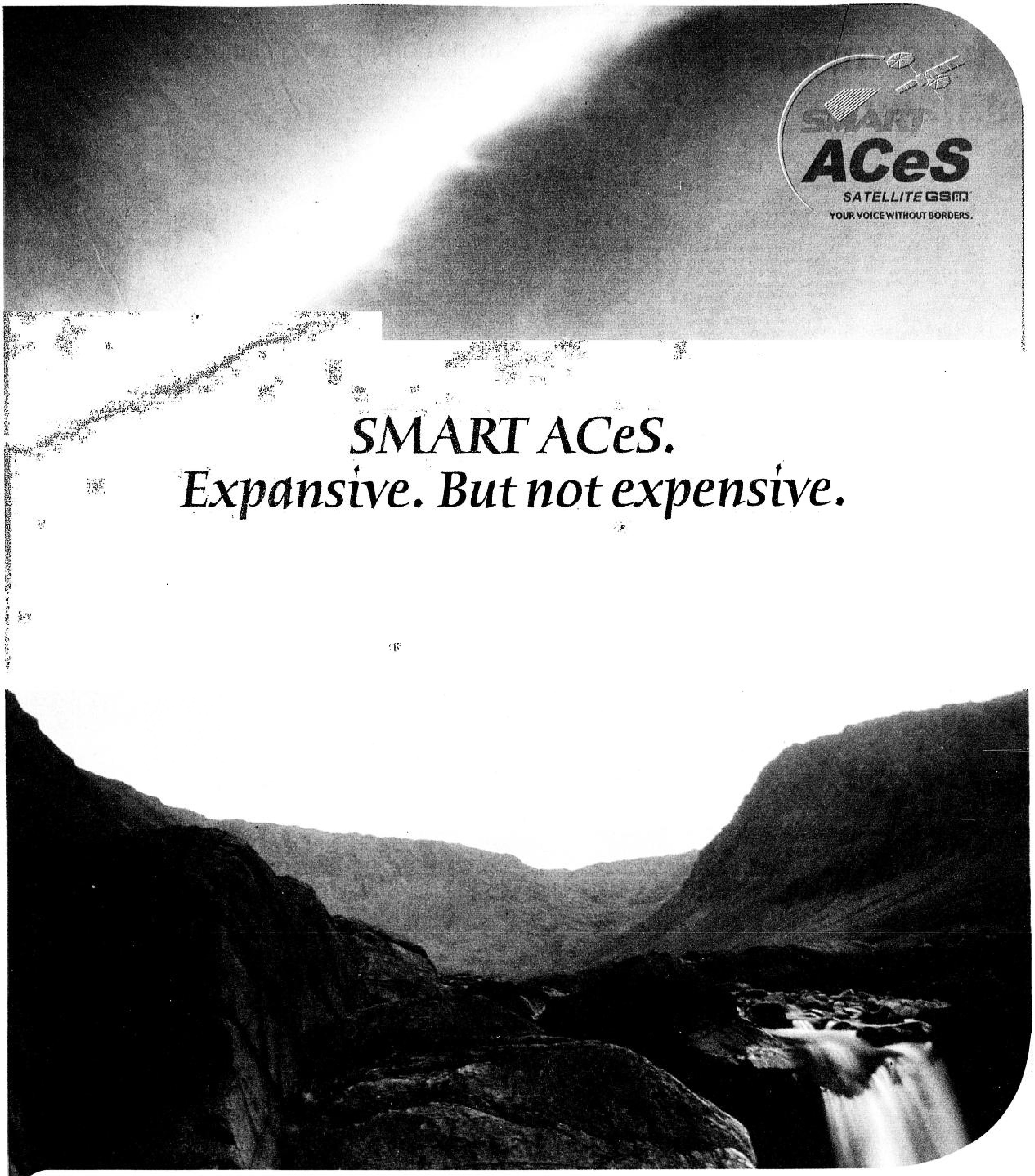

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Saturday SPECIAL
NESTOR U. TORRE, Editor ▨ EDMUND L. SICAM, Associate Editor

Apple Cream Cravings

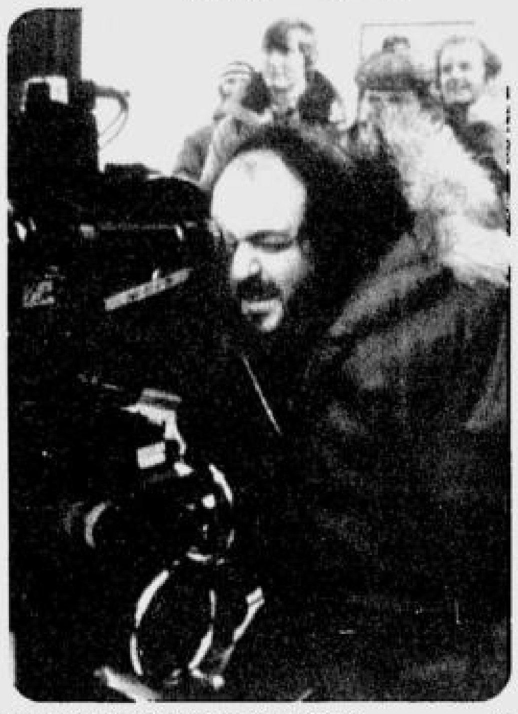
1-1/2	cups flour
2	tsps baking powder
1/4	tsp salt
1/2	cup butter
3/4	cup brown sugar
3/4	cup NESTLE CREAM
1/2	cup sugar
1/2	cup pitted and chopped prunes
2	apples, coarsely chopped
1/2	cup brown sugar combined with
2	tbsps. chopped almonds or walnuts
1	170 g can NESTLE CREAM, chilled

Combine flour, baking powder and salt in a bowl. Cut in butter until pea sized pieces. Blend in brown sugar, then cream until mixture is evenly moist. Set aside. Arrange prunes and apples in a buttered oven-proof dish. Sprinkle 1/2 cup sugar on top of fruits then put in cobbler mixture. Top with sugar almond mixture and bake 35 min. at 350°F. Serve warm with a dollop of cream on top.

Makes *16 - 2 inch square pieces

Watch out for next week's fruity treat!

Nestlé
cream



KUBRICK. Outrageous rumors. AP

Family reveals the real Stanley Kubrick

By Anthony Breznican

LOS ANGELES—Tyrannical! Reclusive! Barking loon!

Tabloids used those words to describe the intensely private director Stanley Kubrick, portraying him as eccentric and misogynistic, a man who abused actors and lived a paranoid life of seclusion.

Now his family is attempting, two years after his death, to do what he could not—show the real Stanley Kubrick.

"Stanley recognized that because he hadn't spoken to the press, hey were now going to have their way," said Christiane Kubrick, his wife of 41 years. "They punished him for being shy."

New documentary

The family agreed to speak out in a new documentary, "Stanley Kubrick: A Life in Pictures," which Warner Bros. debuted this week in a home-video collection of Kubrick films. The feature also is airing this month on the cable station Cinemax.

Kubrick died in 1999 of unspecified natural causes a few days after completing his final movie, the erotic drama "Eyes Wide Shut." He was 70.

Since he gave few interviews during his life and demanded secrecy about his pictures until they were released, speculation about the director of "Lolita" and "2001: A Space Odyssey" ran rampant.

Some of the most outrageous rumors were claims he shot a trespasser on his lawn and only rode in cars if the driver traveled slow and let him wear a football helmet.

Sports cars

Kubrick's brother-in-law and longtime producer, Jan Harlan, called such claims ludicrous. He said Kubrick loved sports cars, for example, and was known to answer the door politely when a fan would sneak onto his property.

"He would just say, 'Stanley is not at home,'" Harlan recalled with a laugh. Since there were few public photos of Kubrick, the fan invariably believed him.

Sharing their stories, the family said, might show the filmmaker's softer side and cause fans to view his movies in a slightly different way.

The feature-length documentary, directed by Harlan, includes home movies (Kubrick as a child, performing a silly dance with his sister; as a father, pestering his daughter about her piano lesson.)

Even in his childhood photos, Kubrick had dark, tired bags beneath his eyes.

Performers such as Malcolm McDowell (star of Kubrick's "A Clockwork Orange") and Jack Nicholson ("The Shining") joined Christiane Kubrick in offering insights into the director.

Early days

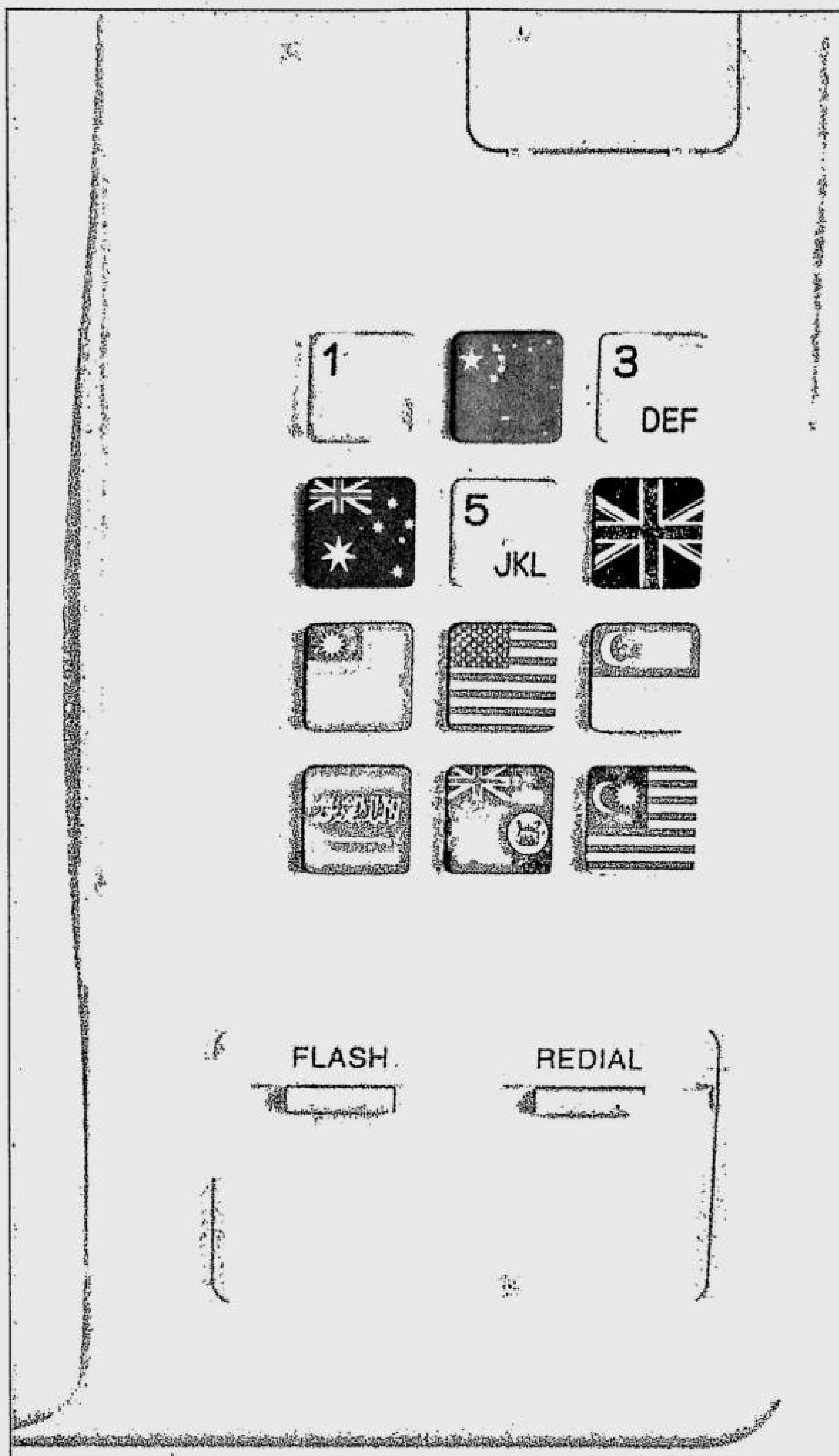
The movie focuses on Kubrick's career, from his early days as a photographer for Look magazine to the later projects he never completed, such as "A.I.," the sci-fi story that Steven Spielberg took over and opens later this month.

There is no mention of Kubrick's first two marriages, to Toba Metz and Ruth Sobotka, and few details about his relationship with his parents.

He is shown with daughters Anya, Vivian and Katharine (Christiane's daughter from a previous marriage) being playful, sweet and occasionally bossy.

"I think I'm one of the most even-tempered people you'll ever meet," he says to 10-year-old Anya while shooting a home movie.

FAMILY/p.C3



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Diaz-Abaya makes film on Mindanao conflict

By Nestor U. Torre

(Continuation)

AFTER visiting the set of "Mindanao," Marilou Diaz-Abaya's new film on the Muslim-Christian conflict in the Philippine south, we were able to snag an interview with the ace filmmaker when she went back to Manila during a one-week break in the production's shooting schedule.

Co-production

She informed us that the film was a co-production of Star Cinema and Bahag-Hari Productions, a company set up by some investors in Mindanao, led by Margie Moran Floirendo.

Margie's group wanted the film to aid the peace-making process in Mindanao by shedding light on the contentious issues that have made genuine peace, understanding and cooperation so elusive in the country's vaunted "Land of Promise."

Marilou knew that the movie's theme and scope would be a daunting challenge for any filmmaker, so she dropped practically everything else she was doing and researched the subject for over a year.

Aside from the many scholars and leaders she interviewed on both sides of the historic and dramatic equation, Marilou had the movie's script vetted by representatives of the military, the MILF, the church and educators and scholars. Only after she had gotten the green light from them did she move on to the shooting phase of the production.

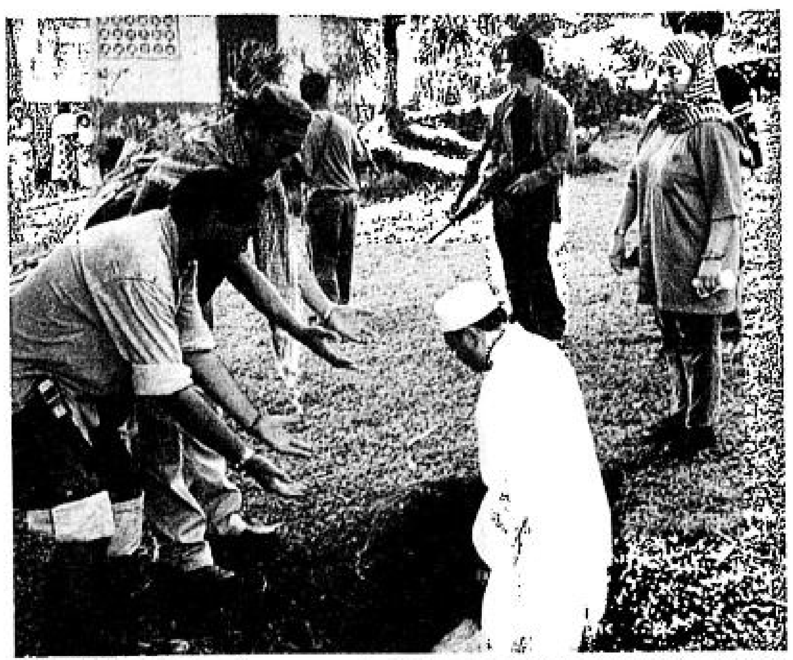
THE DIRECTOR (center) listens as Amy Austria discusses a point with film executive Joseph Olfindo.

Refugees

Most important of all, after consulting scores of well-placed personages, Marilou decided to humanize her movie by focusing on the many refugees of the war in Mindanao, and the moving and harrowing stories they had to tell.

Her search for the conflict's objective *and* subjective truth brought her to evacuation centers in Pikit and Parang, Cotabato; Maguindanao, and Lanao del Sur. She also observed the deliberations of the influential Bishop-Ulama Forum.

Marilou was shocked to discover that more than half of the evacuees were children 12 years and below, while the rest was made up of women and old men.



MARILOU (right) rehearses a burial scene with actors led by Cesar Montano (second from left).

PHOTOS BY JEANNE LIM

From May to August last year, she learned, there were 600,000 people who fled their homes to distance themselves from the harshest repercussions of the conflict. Most of them were eventually resettled, but not in their own farms. So, they continue to experience the physical and psychological onus of displacement.

The filmmaker observes, "One of the reasons why peace is still nowhere in sight is because the government has been diminishing the problem. Contrary to its mind-set, it is *not* just poverty and political-social inequities.

Religious

"It's also religious. Christians are anchored in their faith, but the Muslims are even more deeply so, and their spiritual life is *not* divisible from the rest of their existence. The question is *not* 'Is it lawful?,' but 'Is it Islamic, or not?'

"This spiritual dimension threads through the historical experience of 650 years. In the 15th century, the Spaniards were defeated by the Moors. This traumatized them, and the trauma intensified when the Spaniards came here, and had to contend with the Moros in southern Philippines.

While scholarly insights buttress the film and help it come from a position of ideational strength, rest assured that the production does not intend to come across as a scholarly thesis or lecture.

It's one thing to get steeped in Muslim traditions and attitudes, but being politically correct is not the film's main objective. Take the burial scene that was shot at the movie's set in Tanay, Rizal on the day we paid the production a visit:

Allah's will

The Muslim way is not to weep at burials, because it's important to accept Allah's will in all things—so, Marilou instructed her actors to keep their tears in check.

But the Muslim consultant on the set pointed out that, in actuality, there's a big difference between rules and human nature, so it was deemed OK for Caridad Sanchez's character to cry as her grandson was being buried.

Marilou and the Muslim consultant were in agreement: what was important was "*kung ano yung tunay.*" After all, the consultant wisely observed, "*hindi naman natin tinuturo ang* Koran *o ang Bibliya*—drama *ito*!"

It looks like the film is in good human—and humane-hands. ***(To be concluded)***

SWITCHING CHANNELS

Rhea Santos stands out in GMA's 'Unang Hirit'

By Edmund L. Sicam

IT'S pretty hard not to notice Rhea Santos, one of the new hosts on GMA's early morning show, "Unang Hirit." At 5'9", the statuesque beauty stands out in any crowd. What's more, Rhea, who turned 22 last June 1, graduated magna cum laude from St. Paul's College with a degree in mass communication.

Guys may find that intimidating but up close, she's your typical girl next door, bubbly and friendly, with lots of things to say about many topics.

This we found out when Rhea, along with Hans Montenegro and Ivan Mayrina, were introduced to the press last Monday. Hosting is a dream come true for Rhea, who started out as a segment producer on "Unang Hirit," right after graduation last year. She also applied as a flight attendant for Northwest Airlines but she didn't make the final cut. "One week *ko ring iniyakan yun*," says Rhea. "I don't take rejection very well."

SANTOS. A premium on loyalty.

The airline company's loss is GMA's gain, as she proved to be a competent segment producer. The hours were long and putting together a feature was a difficult task, but when it was finally aired, all the exhaustion seemed to disappear.

Usually, off-camera talents spend a long time on their jobs before they are considered for on-camera work. With Rhea, it took only several months before she was given a break to face the cameras. Looking energetic and genuinely perky at 5 a.m. is no mean feat but Rhea says she enjoys her job so much, it's what motivates her to look fresh and active at that ungodly hour.

It also helps that she's had ramp modeling experience and even won the best in swimsuit competition during the 1996 Body Shots. Her poise and confidence shine through whenever she's in front of the camera.

Speaking of beauty contests, we asked her why she hasn't joined the Bb. Pilipinas. It turns out she was at a screening session of the prestigious contest with her mom, accompanying a friend. One of the organizers spotted her and invited her to sign up. She was hesitant, besides she didn't have a swimsuit and a presentable wardrobe.

Without her knowledge, her mom had brought what she needed to join the screening. It seems Mrs. Santos had always wanted her daughter to become a beauty queen. But Rhea panicked and decided she didn't want to enter the contest.

The desire to join the contest faded even more when she got the hosting job. Usually, aspiring TV and movie talents, join beauty contests to land in show biz. Since she's already in the field, Rhea feels she has already fulfilled her dream.

How about an acting career?

Rhea is happy with her career in public affairs shows, so she's not really interested in acting. Besides, she's scared of the intrigue that goes with the job. She'd like someday to be like Karen Davila, who has made a name for herself in broadcast journalism.

We asked if she'd follow the same path as Karen, who left GMA for ABS-CBN. Rhea was quick to reply that she puts a lot of value on loyalty. GMA gave her the breaks and she intends to stay with the network that launched her career.

More local shows from Studio 23

Studio 23's top man, Mekoy Quiogue, says the rising dollar-peso exchange rate is forcing him to introduce more local programming. With the US dollar breaching the P52 mark, it is becoming more economical to produce local shows. However, the target audience remains the same—the youth market. This is the segment of the viewing audience that high-end advertisers want to reach.

Recently, the station launched the environmental show "Explorer" hosted by Ryan Agoncillo, who's gotten very busy in the Star network since he left GMA. Aside from "Explorer," he co-hosts the daily "Talk TV" and even directed a segment of the Pops Fernandez special.

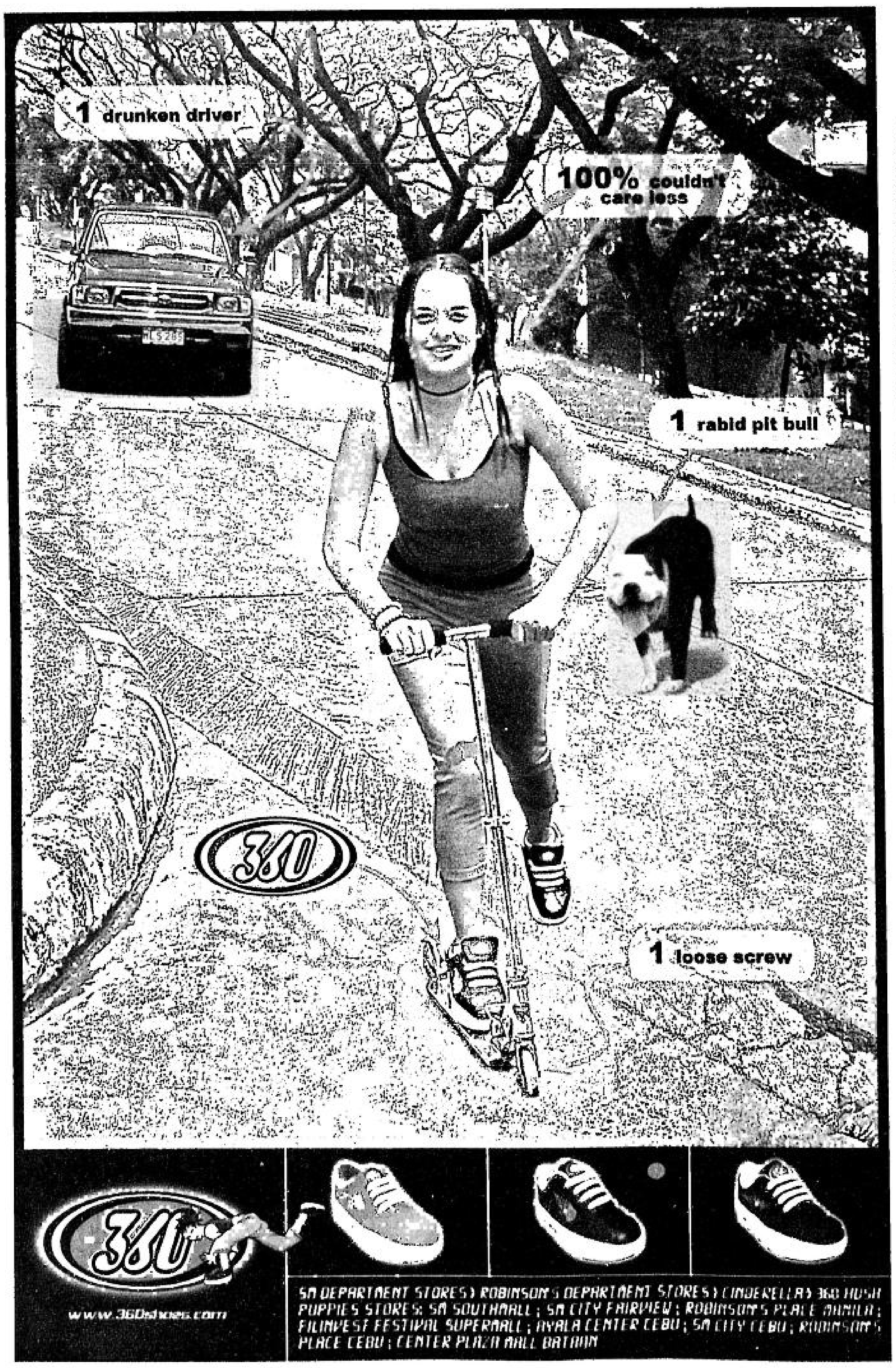
Mekoy is interested in doing a game show that requires more brain work than "MTB" does but has a more varied format than "Who Wants to be a Millionaire?" Not that he's giving up on foreign series but he has to be more selective.

We asked if his station was planning to acquire "The Sopranos," the award-winning series on HBO that deals with a Mafia family. He said it was still being studied. He was all set to air another HBO hit, "Sex in the City" but the MTRCB found it too steamy for young viewers. If the series were to be edited to meet MTRCB's guidelines, nothing would be left of it, so he decided not to air the series.

We asked him how much of Metro Manila homes had cable and he said 45 percent, compared to free TV which is about 90 percent. Interestingly enough, most of these cable homes still tune in to non-cable stations.

Unlike its sister station, Channel 2, which can score ratings beyond the 40 percent mark, Mekoy says the highest rating his station ever got was 19 percent for "Titanic," and this wasn't even the Leonardo DiCaprio version. However, his station is able to get advertisers who are keen on reaching viewers with high disposable income.

QUIOGUE. The currency fluctuation is affecting Studio 23's programming.



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Cogie starts feeling the pressures of stardom

By Veron Dionisio

MANY youths want to trade places with Cogie Domingo. His rapid rise to prominence is the envy of many upstarts in show business. His sudden popularity has made him one of our busiest young actors. To some, he is the newest "overnight" success, and if we believe the recent news about him, like his alleged unprofessionalism on the set of his movie with Judy Ann Santos, success may have gone to his head.

Taping

Cogie explains: "I came from a taping in Subic, *e ako lang ang nagmamaneho.* I had to drive from there to Quezon City, *sa* location *ng* movie *namin ni* Judy Ann. This had already happened before. *Masyado akong* loaded, *masyadong maraming ginagawa, wala nang pahinga.*

"So we had to talk to my manager. After a while, *naging* okay, *naging maluwag. Nawala ako sa* 'SOP.' *Pero ngayon balik na naman,* I'm doing movies and commercials. *Pero wala namang magagawa e. Masisira naman ang pangalan ko.*"

It seems the people managing Cogie's career are striking too fast while the iron is hot. However, we can see discomfort and agitation in the young actor's calm demeanor. He seems so tired and about to experience a premature burnout.

And if he had a say on how to pace his career, he sighs, "I'd rather have fewer commitments so we can really follow a strict schedule. It'll be easier that way. For instance, if we have taping today, tomorrow we could rest, then the next day, shooting *naman. 'Yung hindi naman tambakan, para makakapagpahinga talaga.*"

Conflicts

He hastens to add that he isn't complaining and stresses that he plans to sit down with his manager again to discuss how they can make his work less exhausting, so no previous commitments would be compromised. As it is, in their desire to accommodate every offer presented to them, conflicts in schedule arise, causing controversies along the way.

DOMINGO. Wary about getting overexposed.

On the issue that he doesn't apologize whenever he comes late on the set of his movies and regular TV shows, Cogie clarifies: "*Nagso*-sorry *naman po ako 'pag nale*-late *ako.* I mean, it's already a matter of how we behave. *Para naman kasing lumalabas na walang itinuro ang nanay at tatay ko sa akin.*"

The 15-year-old actor has two regular shows on GMA: the primetime daily soap, "Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin," and the weekly teenage drama serial "Click."

And for those who think that his stardom was handed down to him on a silver platter, hinting that he just woke up one morning, clueless about how he became an instant celebrity, he has this to say: "Actually, I feel a little sad when people think that my career bloomed so fast. I mean, I started doing commercials at the age of eight. I auditioned for Star Circle a few years after. *Mga* two or three batches *siguro. Pero hindi ako nakuha, masyado raw akong bata.*"

Contract

And then Regal Films signed him to a contract. Soon after, he made "Death Row" under GMA Films where he got noticed for his performance. Cogie is now regarded as not just a matinee idol or the typical boy-next-door starlet, but as the next important actor. "I'm honored that people believe in me. *Ang sarap pakinggan noon.* I'm very thankful," he beams.

As an actor, Cogie hopes he'll be able to tackle a variety of roles in different film genres. He admires Aga Muhlach and Nicolas Cage for their ability to portray varied characters in their films.

Is he happy with the way his career has turned out? "Yes, *masaya naman ako sa mga nangyayari sa buhay ko ngayon.* I feel really blessed," replies Cogie, smiling, his eyes betraying what he might really be feeling.

"*Kaso lang sana,* there'll be more time to rest. It could really be tiring at times!"

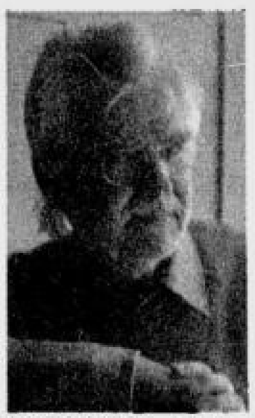
Choice

Couldn't he say no to some commitments, or doesn't he have a choice? "I could at times. *Meron namang choice minsan.* But there are times, they'd suddenly call me, '*O,* Cogie, *meron kang ganito . . .*'" his voice trails off.

Despite his success, he knows that a career in show business is fleeting. So his studies remain his top priority. Although he's still undecided on what course he'll take, he's bent on getting an education, no matter what.

"Most probably, I'll take a business course," says Cogie, who'll be in third year high school next year. He's not enrolled this year because of his many show biz commitments.

If there's one thing he's worried about at this point in his career, it is the probability that people would get tired of him quickly and prematurely. "*Dahil nga lagi akong nakikita,* I'm overexposed. *Nakakatakot* that all these things that are happening to me, *mawawala lahat.* But I don't want to think about it so much. As much as possible, I try to enjoy what I'm doing. Of course, I want to last in this business," he says. "But nothing lasts forever."



HARLAN. Kubrick's brother-in-law. AP

Family

(From page C1)

"Ha!" she responds.

"I wanted to make a movie that he would approve," Harlan said.

"He was very private, but I think if we were to meet in the afterlife, I could still face him."

Harlan offers glimpses of Kubrick's everyday life, revealing him to be an affable, curious character who enjoyed chess and loved animals but had a furious temper.

"I'm not saying Stanley was a saint, because he wasn't," Harlan said.

Lies enraged him. If an actor or crew member said they were ready to shoot and they weren't, Kubrick would explode because the entire day's schedule would be thrown off track.

Negative news

"Sometimes people worried and would not give him negative news, which was the worst thing you could do. For him it was better to know," said Leon Vitali, Kubrick's personal assistant since his small role in 1975's "Barry Lyndon."

Overall, Vitali said, the director's temper was exaggerated. But his relationships with McDowell, Shelley Duvall of "The Shining" and Ryan O'Neal of "Barry Lyndon" soured, in part, because of his stubborn anger.

Kubrick's family said those were exceptions. "He was quick to anger, but also quick to cool down," Harlan said.

Kubrick was a native New Yorker who lived the last four decades of his life in rural Hertfordshire, England. Contrary to speculation, his widow said, he was "the opposite of a recluse."

He spent hours on the phone with directors like Spielberg or former Warner Bros. co-chairman Terry Semel, chatting about the latest technology or discussing story ideas.

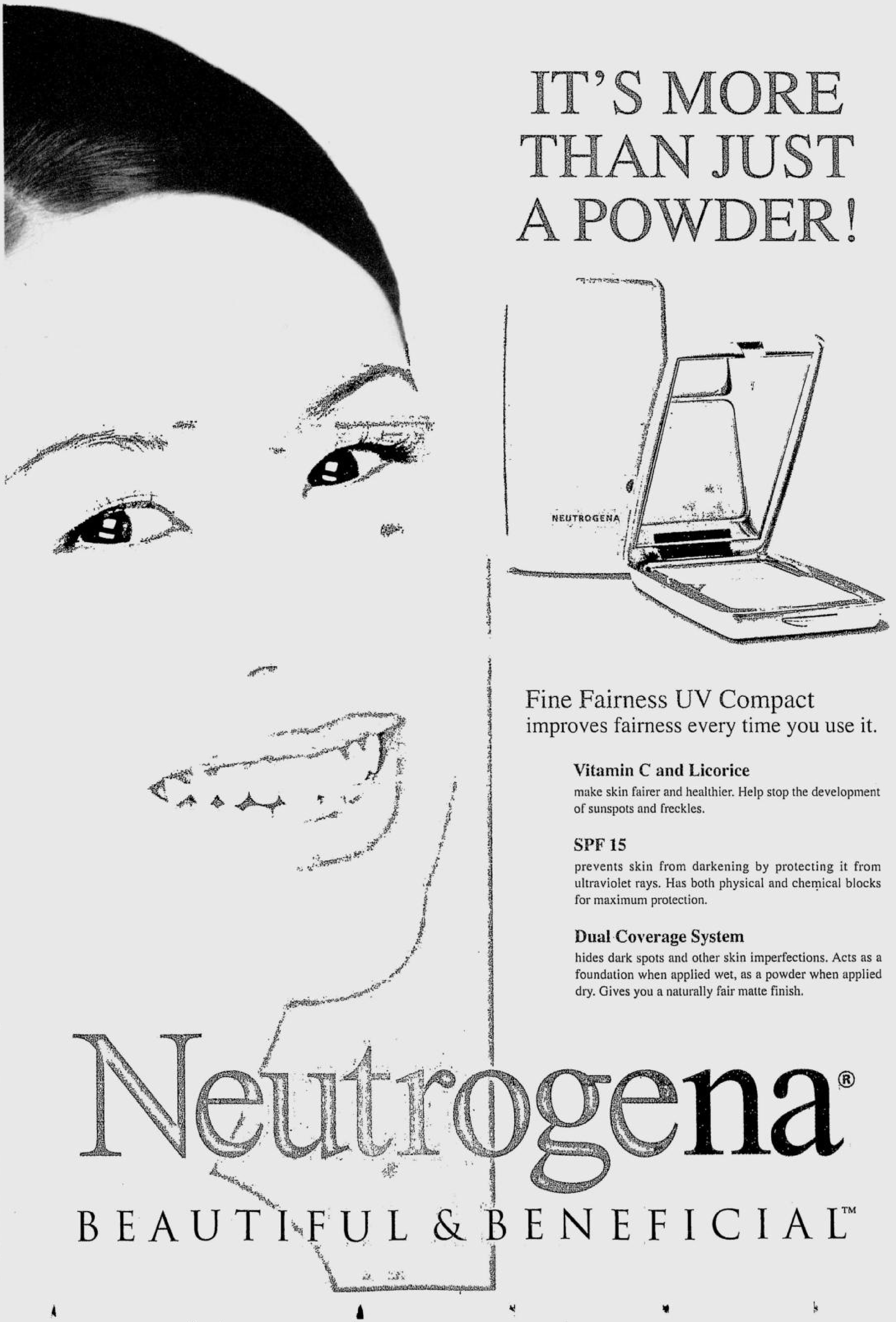
"He used other people's brains recklessly," Christiane Kubrick said.

Violent visions

The director of such violent visions as "A Clockwork Orange" and "Full Metal Jacket" also had a soft spot for old donkeys. "He had a donkey sanctuary for when their working life was over," Harlan said.

Christiane Kubrick said her husband eagerly screened any movie he could, from the dark dramas of Ingmar Bergman to lighthearted comedies like Steve Martin's "The Jerk."

"Sometimes he would only watch the first third of a film because of a certain actor or a bit of lighting," she said. "I'd often ask, 'How would you like other people to watch your movies that way?' And he'd say 'Oh, no, no, no!'" *AP*



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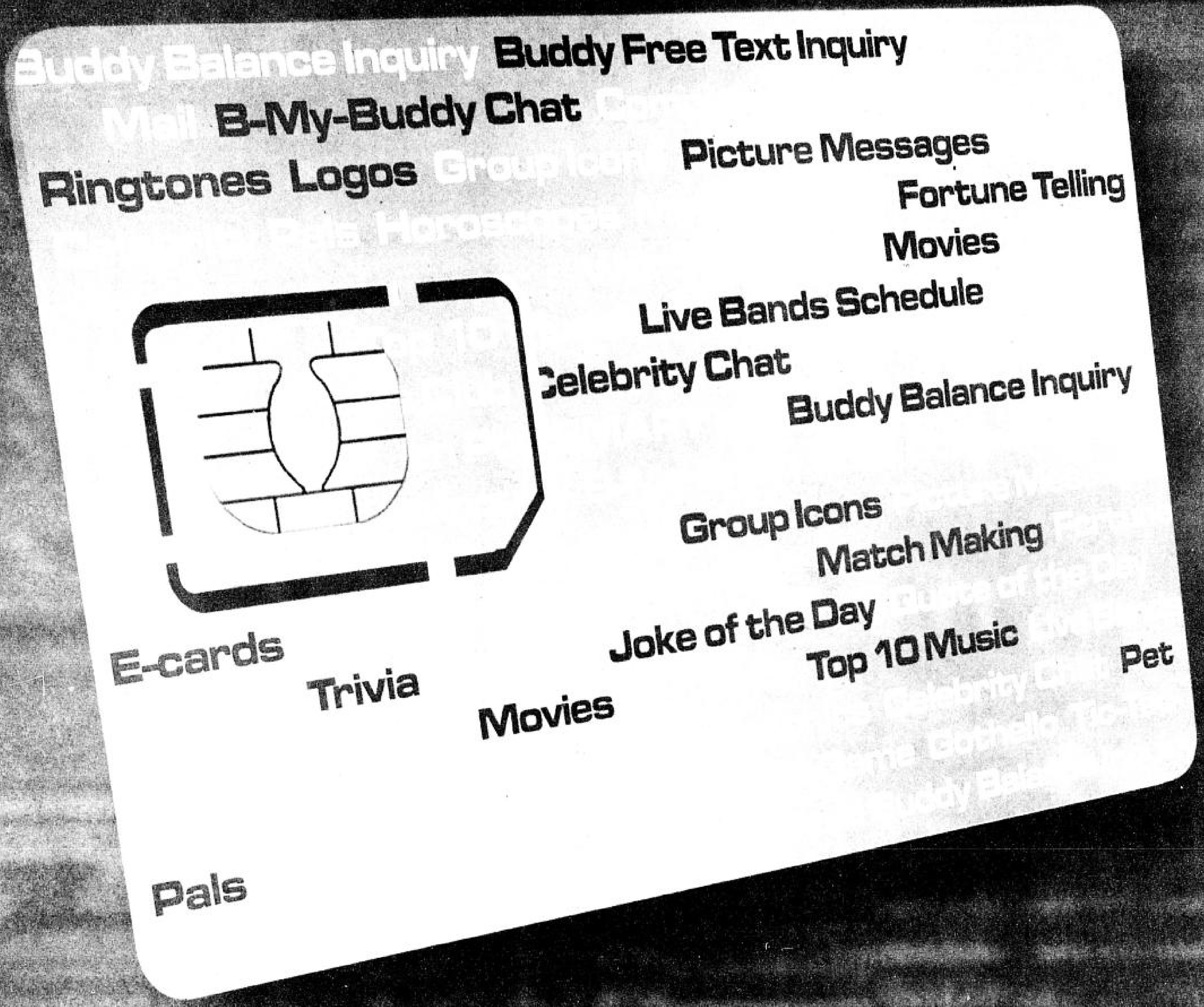
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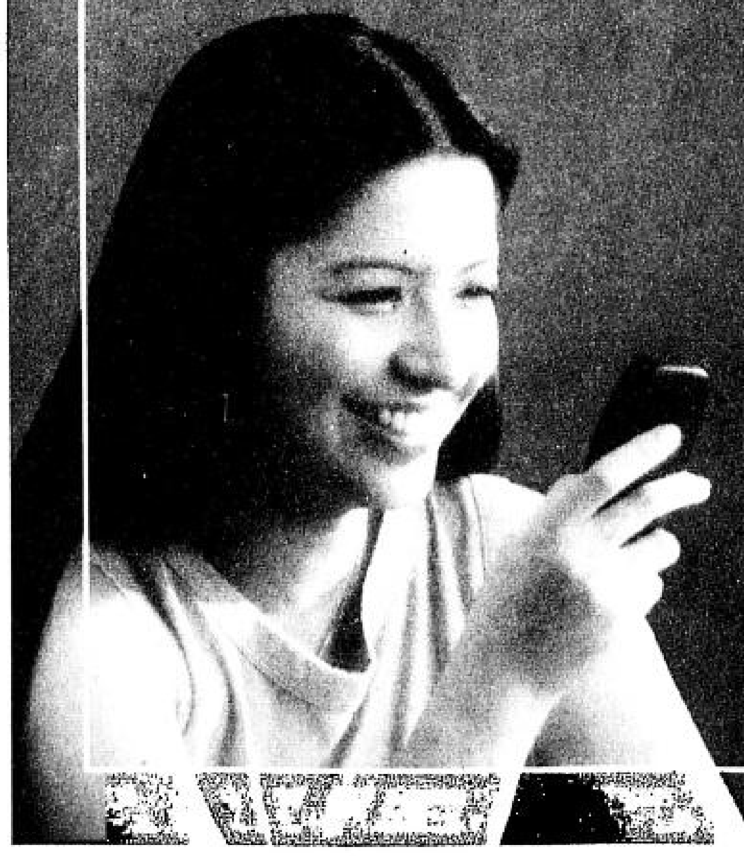

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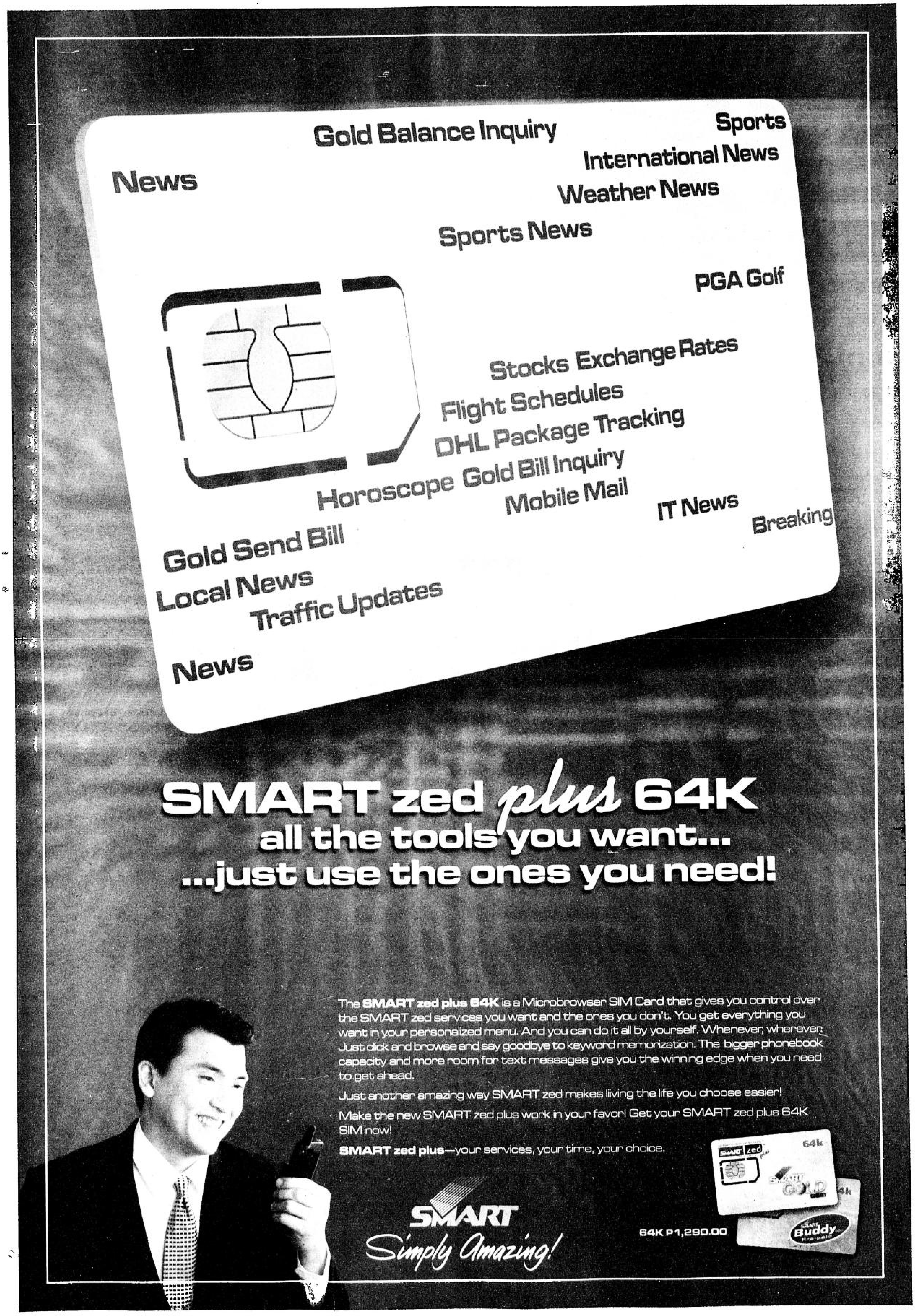
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Musical tribute to Fr. Honti

FR. HONTI (left) with Carol Banawa and Fr. Manoling Francisco.

FR. Eddie Hontiveros, SJ, composer of songs like "Kahanga-hanga," "Sa Dapithapon," "Paghahandog sa Sarili" and "Panangutan," is recognized as the father of Filipino liturgical music. To date, he has written hundreds of songs, many of which are sung every Sunday at mass.

His work has influenced younger Jesuits like Frs. Manoling Francisco, Fruto Ramirez, Nemy Que, Charlie Cenzon, Jboy Gonzales and Bro. Arnel Aquino, who have also composed songs of worship.

Ten years ago, Fr. Honti suffered a stroke which left him partly paralyzed, but he continues to write songs, inspiring those who follow in his steps.

In loving tribute to this musical man of God, a concert, "Panangutan: A Lifetime of Music and Love," will be staged at the University of the Philippines Main Theater at 7:30 p.m. on July 7 and 8.

The concert and retrospective of Fr. Honti's best-loved songs features the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Gerard Salonga, Carol Banawa, Noel Cabangon, a 100-voice choir and Fr. Manoling Francisco, SJ. Call Mary Grace de Guzman at 426-5971. Tickets are available at the Jesuit Communications Office and at selected religious bookstores and parishes.

Conversation with Neale Donald Walsch

Neale Donald Walsch, author of the bestsellers "Conversations with God, Vols. 1, 2 and 3," will speak at 6 p.m. today, June 23 at the Meralco Theater. Tickets at Powerbooks branches, at Chacra (426-5368) or call 426-5375.

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

'Early editions' click with viewers

ABS-CBN has hit upon a relatively new programming scheme that is strengthening its hold on the late-afternoon and early-evening timeslot: its creation of "early edition" and "producer's cut" versions of the same shows.

Time was when these programs were telecast only late at night, but parts of them are now shown early in the evening as "early edition" condensations. Then, on their regular late-night slots, they are run again as "producer's cut" versions.

What's in a name, indeed. Ratings show that the "early editions" are clicking, thus beefing up viewership before Channel 2's evening newscast.

And the early-evening previews could also bolster the viewership of the late-night versions because they serve as previews or teasers that whet viewers' appetite for more of the same, which the late-night "producer's cuts" satisfy. Pretty clever, huh?

Will the other channels follow suit and call two telecasts of the same show by different names? The temptation is great because the scheme is a great cost-saver: imagine, you get two shows pretty much for the price of one. You don't get many such bargains these days!

Lara Croft and Ericsson

Now that "Lara Croft: Tomb Raider" is a huge hit abroad and is about to open in town, Ericsson is poised to ride the crest of the waves that the hit movie is making with a multi-pronged promo campaign.

The tie-up has been made possible by the fact that, in the film, Lara Croft (Angelina Jolie) is powered by Ericsson's wireless communication technology, embodied by the R310 mobile phone, the Bluetooth headset and the H610 web screen.

The "Tomb Raider" event series kicked off last June 16 with an Ericsson Gala Night at Louie's THX in Makati, featuring Joey Mead as Lara Croft. Ongoing is a month-long sale of the latest in mobile phones at all SM malls.

And today, a Tomb Raider Street Party will be held along Julia Vargas ave. in Ortigas.

'Maestro Filipino III'

For its Maestro Filipino III concert, 98.7 dzFE "The Master's Touch" fuses Western, Asian and indigenous influences—Rossini and Mahler, Chishi and Geonyong Lee, Feliciano and Noni Espina.

Performing in concert are the PWU Guitar Ensemble headed by Jose Valdez, KontraGaPi under Edru Abraham, the Athenaeum String Quartet led by Michi Martinez, the AILM Asian Ensemble under Eudenice Palaruan, soprano Rachelle Gerodias, baritone Lawrence Jatayna, pianist Ena Maria Aldecoa and flautist Eric Barcelo, with assisting artist Benjamin Dia, Jr.

FEGI. Bright future.

The concert will be held at 7 p.m. on June 29 at the Francisco Santiago Hall of Equitable PCI Bank, Tower 1. Call dzFE at 810-3896.

Maestro Filipino is the Far East Broadcasting Co.'s response to the urgent need to popularize Philippine classical and indigenous music.

Material recorded for Maestro Filipino has done much to win for dzFE's "Bravo Filipino" program the KBP Golden Dove Award for Best Program Promoting Culture and the Arts for 2000.

The concert series raises funds to construct recording facilities, the purchase of equipment needed for recording, editing and digital transfers, and artists' honoraria.

Promising young diva

Anna Fegi's singing career is really heating up these days. She's being hailed as one of the most promising young divas on the music scene, and she clearly has a bright future ahead of her, thanks to her innate talent, her eagerness to learn, and the savvy handling of her career by her manager, Bibsy Carballo, who knows outstanding talent when she sees it.

Anna won new fans when she performed recently in the "City Jazz and Grooves" show at Monk's Dream on Jupiter st. in Makati. The musical evening was sponsored by Veterano Brandy.

Anniversary concert

The Metro Manila Community Orchestra (MMCO) holds its first anniversary concert at 6 p.m. on June 27 at the Miriam College Mini-Forest Park, with Chino Toledo conducting.

The repertoire: "Buwan sa Kabundukan" (Lucio San Pedro), "Symphony No. 3 in Eb Major Op. 55" (Beethoven), "Tzigane (Rhapsodie de concert pour violon et orchestre)" (Ravel), and "Peter and the Wolf" (Prokofiev).

The finale will be highlighted by a visualization by Anino Shadowplay, with Sonia M. Roco as narrator.

Featured in "Tzigane" as solo violinist is 19-year-old Lorenzo Raval, a NAMCYA awardee and the youngest member of the Miriam College Center for Applied Music's String Faculty.

The concert is open to the public. Call Tess de Leon at 426-1822.

Ivy Violan goes light and easy in new album

BY JOCELYN VALLE

VIOLAN. Keeping up with the musical times.

THERE'S a different Ivy Violan in her latest album, "Ivy At The Movies." The singer who wowed audiences in song festivals several years ago is not "belting" in the Viva Records-released album, (save for the sixth track, "I Believe I Can Fly," where she scales the high notes with Regine Velasquez).

Smart move

Instead, Ivy is taking it light and easy. Smart move. She doesn't have to prove that she still has the lung power to match the new generation of "*birit*" singers. Everybody already knows that.

"Ivy At The Movies" demonstrates that having a good voice is not enough to effectively interpret 12 popular theme songs. It takes intelligence to make the message of each selection clear to the listener without emoting too much, plus the uniqueness to render the CD buyer oblivious to the tunes' original singers, and the intensity to tone down the record producers' penchant for fancy arrangements.

Ivy admits to having had difficulties pulling the musical challenge off. "I had to be coached by Zebedee Zuñiga," she recalls. "I had to sound young. I was learning the new stuff."

R&B tunes and crossover pop-jazz music, which characterize most of the tracks in "Ivy At The Movies," aren't new to Violan, though.

"You have to be open to all types of music," says Ivy, who began singing at age three. But would she do rap? "Why not?" she counters. "I'd like to learn how to do it. I also appreciate rock. I like Aerosmith."

Music video

Ivy also tries to reach the youth crowd with the music video of the album's carrier single, "Where Do I Begin." It's taken from the weepy "Love Story" of the '70s but you won't remember Ryan O'Neal and Ali McGraw while watching it.

With her leading man (model-theater actor Miguel Vasquez), Ivy sensuously sings while swimming underwater. "It was hard to do," she shakes her head, and sighs as she remembers the Abu Sayyaf's attack at Pearl Farm. The production team, headed by director Martin Arnaldo and cinematographer Marissa Florendo, was there a few days before the hostage-taking incident!

The general mood reminds us instead of one of Toni Braxton's sexy music videos. Surely, you'll never have to say sorry for Ivy's version of "Where Do I Begin." Ditto for the rest of the roster: "I Could Fall In Love," "People," "Ready To Take A Chance," "Someone Who Cares," "Tears In Heaven," "Someone To Watch Over Me," "Everything I Do (I Do It For You)," "Best That You Can Do," "Finding Out The Hard Way" and "No More Lonely Nights."

Different

And to make the public aware that her album is different from other "at-the-movies" CDs and tapes, Ivy tours the malls and bars. It's been two years since her last recording was released and a dozen upcoming divas have emerged. Ivy feels it's time to reassert herself in the biz.

"Ivy At The Movies" may have been the brainchild of Viva Records' bosses but Ivy shares that she's always wanted to record a concept album and that she loves watching movies. Consequently, she can't single out a particular favorite selection in the album.

There's another thing both young and veteran singers should learn from Ivy—taking care of both the voice and the body. She shares that she eats the right food (which is free of fat, sugar and chemicals) and regularly works out. No wonder, she has maintained her lithe body all these years, fitting perfectly in the flowing outfits that designer Rodelle Arre makes for her.

Winners unveiled at MTV Pilipinas 2001 awards

ALCASID. Best Song awardee.

THE WINNERS of MTV Pilipinas 20001 were revealed last June 8 amidst the glitz and glamour of the music world. The rites that honored the best in music video-making in the Philippines were held at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel where nominees, presenters and fans awaited the announcement of the winners of the coveted MTV Pilipinas trophies.

The winners were: Best New Artist—Kyla for "Hanggang Ngayon," Best Group—Parokya ni Edgar for "Inuman Na," Best Male—Ogie Alcasid for "Kahit Na," Best Female—Regine Velasquez for "Lost Without Your Love." Best Song went to Ogie Alcasid for "Kahit Na," Best Director—Lyle Sacris for Chico Science's "Sink or Swim," and Best Video—Kyla for "Hanggang Ngayon."

Celebrities

Veteran director Mark Reyes directed the show that was filled with fun and fanfare. Guests got to watch performances by some celebrities of the Pinoy music world such as Radha, who belted out the National Anthem; Vina Morales, Anna Fegi and Rachel Alejandro, who opened the show with a medley singing the Best Song nominees, with Powerdance grooving alongside them.

Other performers were the Best Video nominees: Battery for "Come to Me," Teeth for "Shooting Star," Jessa Zaragosa for "Siya Ba Ang Dahilan," Kyla for "Hanggang Ngayon," and Parokya ni Edgar for "Inuman Na." A spiel for Gary V.'s video "I Will Be Here" was also played.

Amplified coalition

The final performance was by an all-star amplified coalition: Buddy of Eraserheads, Rico of Rivermaya, Mark of Sandwich, Tirso of Razorback, Wolf of Wolfgang, Cookie Chua and Sam of Color It Red.

The presenters for the night included Barbie Almalbis, Jinky Vidal, Epy Quizon, Jett Pangan, Jun Lupito, Stella Ruiz, Randy Ortiz, Angel Aquino, Ogie Alcasid, Erik Matti, Radha, Jim Paredes, Ryan Cayabyab, Kuh Ledesma and Boy Abunda.

Catch MTV Pilipinas 2001 on MTV Channel 41 on June 24 at 1 p.m. and 8 p.m. with repeats on June 28 at 2 p.m. and June 30 at 1 p.m. and 8 p.m.

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AM/FM

Janet Jackson, 35, still dominates pop, R&B charts

BY RITO P. ASILO

POP songs like those warbled by the likes of Britney Spears, Christina Aguilera, Westlife and N' Sync are a dime a dozen. They rule the airwaves, the charts and the concert circuit.

But time has proven how fickle fans are. After all, record patrons, a large percentage of whom are teenagers like their singing idols, also grow up and mature—and their musical taste changes as they age.

Emergence

Radio programs like Power 108's "Cloud Nine", hosted by DJ Tiny, on FM's dzWI (Mondays to Fridays around midnight), demonstrate a genre's emergence on the pop block—rhythm and blues *and* hip-hop.

In the late '80s, the commercial successes of white rap artists, like Snow and Vanilla Ice (Remember "Ice Ice Baby",.that sinfully successful single which smartly borrowed Queen's "Under Pressure" riffs?), were considered an anomaly.

But these days, it's not uncommon to hear white artists, like Eminem or Kid Rock, complain about everything from their tarnished past to their newfound celebrity, just like Public Enemy used to.

Musical fusion of R&B, urban, soul and hip-hop is common among songs that you hear on the radio's pop stations, like the sassy songs ("Stroke You Up", "Foolin' Around") of the vocal duo, Changing Faces; the beautiful vocal arrangements ("One Last Cry", "Win" from the DeNiro film, "Men of Honor") of Brian McKnight; the Spanish-tinged vocals ("Dimelo") of Boyz to Men wannabes Voices of Theory; the pop song *a capella* covers ("Hard to Say I'm Sorry") of AZ Yet; the stylish, brash, sensual grooves ("Red Light Special", "Unpretty") of TLC; the delicious mix of soul-man crooning and explicit carnality ("Sex Me", "Bump 'n Grind") of prolific singer-composer-producer R. Kelly; and, of course, the durable, ever-adapting repertoire ("All for You", "Doesn't Really Matter") of Janet Jackson.

JACKSON. Her song "All for You" was banned in Singapore.

Distinctive

R. Kelly's songs are distinctive in that his lyrics are considered seductive enough to sell blatant sexual come-ons (we suggest you listen to "Your Body's Callin'", or "Bump and Grind") while mixing them in funky hip-hop beat and soulful singing.

The fiery combination proved to be radio-friendly and chart-topping because he is now considered one of America's top honchos—as a singer *and* producer.

He consolidated his cross-over success, from R&B to pop, with his 1996 single, "I Believe I Can Fly" (recorded for Michael Jordan's movie, "Space Jam" with Bugs Bunny, Daffy Duck, Elmer Fudd and the rest of Warner Brothers' lovable-but-edgy cartoons), and then with another Top Ten soundtrack tune, "Gotham City", from the George Clooney-Chris O'Donnell blockbuster "Batman and Robin".

"I Believe I Can Fly" became an anthem among aspiring male singers in the Philippines because of the vocal acrobatics that characterized the song—and you know Filipino singers, they feel they *have* to copy every note and shift of every song! The more *kulot* you can get, the better.

R. Kelly's duet, "I'm Your Angel", with Queen of *Kulot* (I'm sure Mariah Carey, Christina Aguilera and the rest of the lot will disagree vigorously) Celine Dion, was his second number one pop hit—it enjoyed a six-week run at the top of the charts!

Publicity mileage

But more than the sexually explicit lyrics of his music, R. Kelly drew a lot of publicity mileage in 1994 when he produced "Age Ain't Nothin' But A Number," the hit debut by then 15-year-old Aaliyah (who recently starred with Jet Li in "Romeo Must Die" and topped the charts with "Try Again"), and, a few months later, *married her*! A classic case of art imitating life, or is it the other way around?

And then there's Janet. *Miss* Jackson, if you're nasty! Michael Jackson's little sister has proven that she is more durable than the rest of the talented Jackson brood, which also includes Jermaine and La Toya.

Fifteen years after releasing her breakthrough album, 1986's "Control," which was her *third* after 1982's forgettable eponymous album and 1984's lame "Dream Street," Janet continues to reinvent her music—and herself.

Media backlash

Unlike pop music's Material Girl...err Material Mama, that is...Madonna, who, until the "Ray of Light" album, constantly reinvented her look more than her material until she suffered a media backlash (remember the campy, almost pornographic "Justify My Love" video and the controversial "Sex" book?), Janet constantly reworked her music, with the help of the ever-present Harris and Lewis, went with the times, and persevered. At 35, she has amassed eight albums, all bestsellers except for the first two.

While the first two albums (in which Janet was described to have "no distinctive musical personality of her own" and her music "undistinguished sub-disco thumpers and drippy ballads") were not successful, "Control" showcased the emerging personality of Janet, who was then attempting to take "control" of her life—and take control she did!

From "Control," Janet has since released six hugely successful, greatly innovative, concept-driven albums: 1989's "Rhythm Nation 1814"; 1993's "Janet"("That's the Way Love Goes"); a Remix album in 1995; 1996's "Design of the Decade" Greatest Hits compilation (with the ethereal "Twenty Foreplay"); 1997's "Velvet Rope" (which includes the hauntingly beautiful "Special"); and this year's "All for You" (take note of the track "Someone to Call My Lover", which used a sampling of America's "Ventura Highway", the longer version of "Doesn't Really Matter" from her recent starrer with Eddie Murphy, "The Nutty Professor II", and a vocal interpolation with Carly Simon's "You're So Vain" in "Son of a Gun").

Homosexual undertones

It's interesting to note Singapore's recent banning of the song "All for You" because of its alleged homosexual undertones. But "The Velvet Rope" was certainly more racy than this latest effort! "All for You" is just plain sexy (*All my friends at the party/Look at that body/Shakin' that thing like you never did see/Got a nice package alright/Guess I'm gonna have to try it tonight*).

They haven't even gotten to that song where she coos, "*I wanna ( )you, and taste you, ride you, feel you, make you ( ), ( ) inside of me.*" Add to that her breathy delivery and silky groove, those endless interludes and her murmured vocals. But "All for You," Singapore? Aww, come on!

Janet has indeed redefined herself and worked on her strengths as a performer. Despite a wafer-thin voice and lack of vocal range, she more than makes up with her soul, spirit and spunk, which she uses to maximum advantage. And, of course, a cleanly produced album doesn't hurt either!

She has even branched out to the movies (John Singleton's 1993 movie, "Poetic Justice", which debuted at number one at the box-office; and last year's "The Nutty Professor II: The Klumps"). For the latter, she was paid a cool $3 M, and an additional $1 M for the song, "Doesn't Really Matter".

Although she won an MTV Movie Award for Best Female Performance for "Poetic Justice", she was also recognized by the infamous Razzie Awards as that year's Worst New Star for the same picture! Ouch!

Top prizes

Janet has a collection of four Grammy Awards (three for the music videos of "Rhythm Nation," "Scream" and "Got Till Its Gone" and one for Best R&B Song for "That's the Way Love Goes"). Comparatively, her brother Michael has collected *13* Grammies, all the top prizes there are, including 1983's Best Recording for Children for the soundtrack to Spielberg's "E.T., The Extra-Terrestrial".

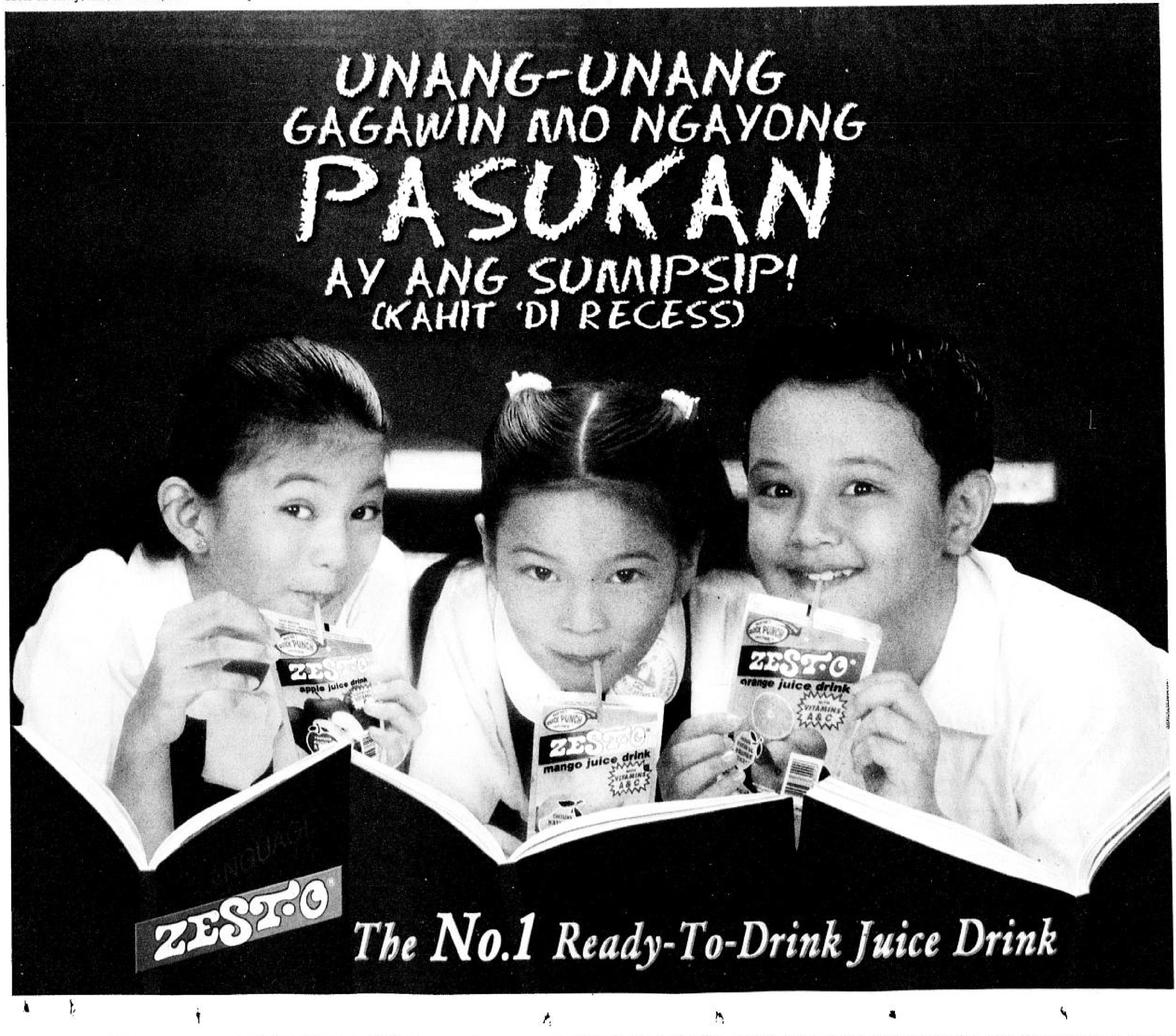
But she is the only Jackson family member to ever be nominated for an Oscar (For Best Song, "Again," from her movie, "Poetic Justice").

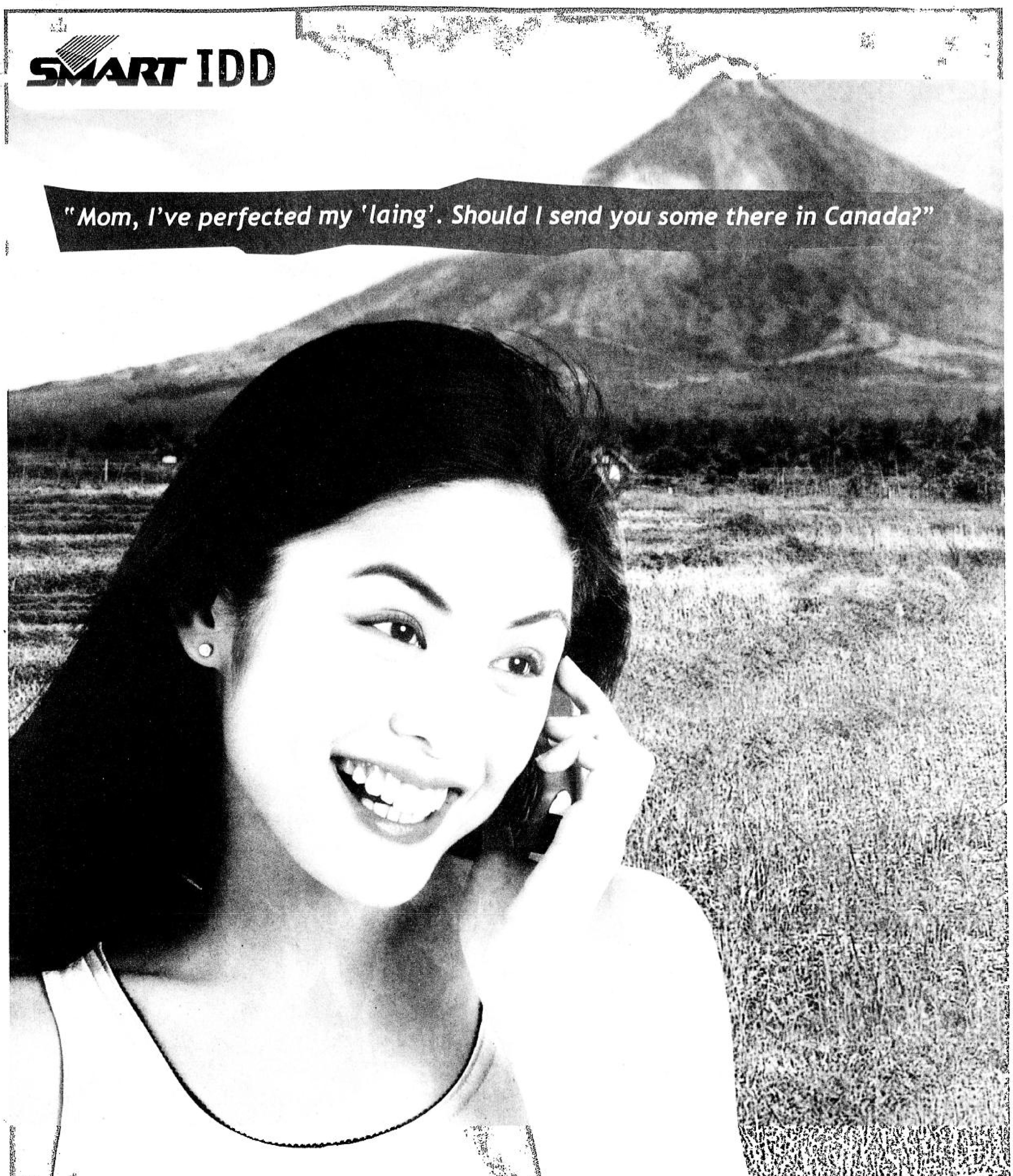
Her latest "All for You" album and single debuted at the top of the Billboard charts, while Michael is having a hard time looking for distributors for his next record. So far, the album has sold more than two million units (double platinum) in the U.S. alone.

This week's number one in the album chart is alternative metal artist Staind's "Break the Cycle," while on top of the singles chart is the latest reworking of the frequently remade "Lady Marmalade" by Christina Aguilera, Mya, Pink and Li'l Kim, culled from the soundtrack of the Ewan McGregor-Nicole Kidman starrer, "Moulin Rouge," while Janet's is at 10th.

For the incoming first-ever Billboard Magazine's R&B/Hip-hop Awards, which encompass 17 categories based on actual performance (sales *and* radio airplay) on the weekly Billboard R&B/hip-hop and rap charts, Janet's name stands alongside fellow nominees Sade, Musiq Soulchild, Ja Rule, Case, Outkast, Mystikal, Tank, Lil Bow Wow and other relative unknowns who will most likely vanish from the limelight after two or three albums (except probably the very promising Soulchild and returning diva Sade). Sadly, when the magic dust settles, only the truly brilliant or the lucky remain standing.

I'd place my bet on Janet.

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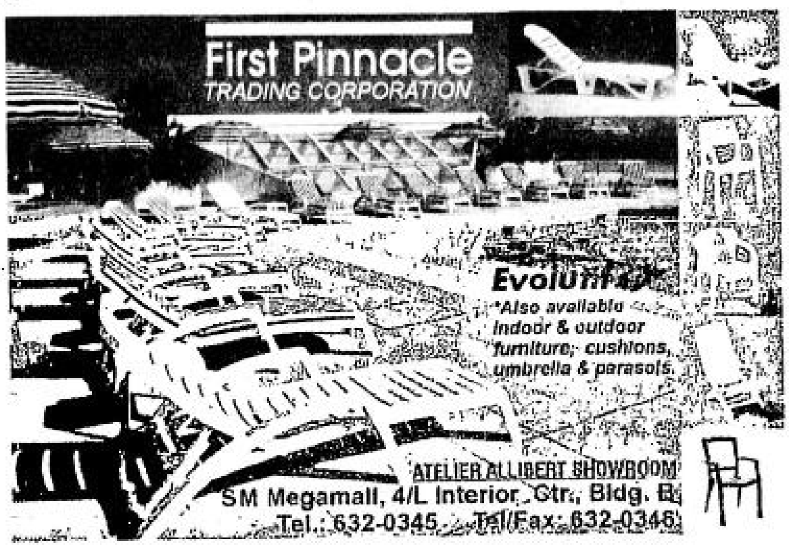
The film sets a new opening record for a female star-driven project

Jolie's 'Tomb Raider' digs up box-office riches

NEGATIVE reviews did not deter moviegoers from trooping to the theaters.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By Dean Goodman

LOS ANGELES—Actress Angelina Jolie restored some sizzle to the North American box office as her new action-adventure "Lara Croft: Tomb Raider" swooped in at No. 1 with a weekend haul of $48.2 million, according to studio estimates issued on Sunday.

New record

The Paramount Pictures film, which reportedly cost almost $100 million to make, sets a new opening record for a female star-driven vehicle, according to Rob Friedman, vice chairman at the Viacom Inc.-owned studio.

Friedman had briefed Jolie about the film's progress on Saturday and described her reaction as "ecstatic."

The 26-year-old actress, who won an Academy Award last year for playing a mental patient in "Girl, Interrupted," is signed on for two more "Lara Croft" films.

Jolie plays the title character, a sleek, sexy archeologist introduced to the world several years ago in the "Tomb Raider" computer game franchise developed by British firm Eidos Plc., which licensed the film rights to Paramount. The film, directed by Simon West, has Croft racing around the world to recover an ancient time travel device.

Reviews were mostly negative, but that did not deter moviegoers, about 55 percent of whom were male and 50 percent aged over 25, according to Paramount polling data.

"Lara Croft: Tomb Raider" also ranks as the third best June opener in history and the fourth best of 2001, and it helped propel overall ticket sales sharply higher.

Wide release

Far off in the distance, the Walt Disney Co. cartoon "Atlantis: The Lost Empire" shot up 11 places to No. 2 in its first weekend of wide release, with $20.4 million for the Friday-to-Sunday period.

Computer-animated hit "Shrek" slipped one place to No. 3 with $12.9 million, taking its five-week total to $197.2 million. The DreamWorks cartoon is expected to pass the $200 million mark on Tuesday or Wednesday, a spokeswoman for the privately held studio said.

Last weekend's champion, the John Travolta crime thriller "Swordfish" fell to No. 4 with $12.2 million in its second round. The 10-day total is $39.2 million, and the film should end up in the $70 million range, said Warner Bros. distribution president Dan Fellman. Warner Bros. is a unit of AOL Time Warner Inc.

Epic romance

"Pearl Harbor" fell two places to No. 5 with $9.5 million in its fourth weekend. Disney's WWII epic romance has pulled in $160 million to date, and should "approach or hit" $200 million, said Disney distribution president Chuck Viane. The film reportedly cost $240 million to produce and market.

The top 12 films grossed a combined $127.9 million, up 35 percent from last weekend and up 30 percent from the same weekend last year, when "Shaft" opened at No. 1.

New releases next weekend include the Eddie Murphy comedy "Dr. Dolittle 2" and the drag-racing thriller "The Fast and the Furious." *Reuters*

JOLIE plays a sleek, sexy archaeologist racing to recover an ancient time travel device.

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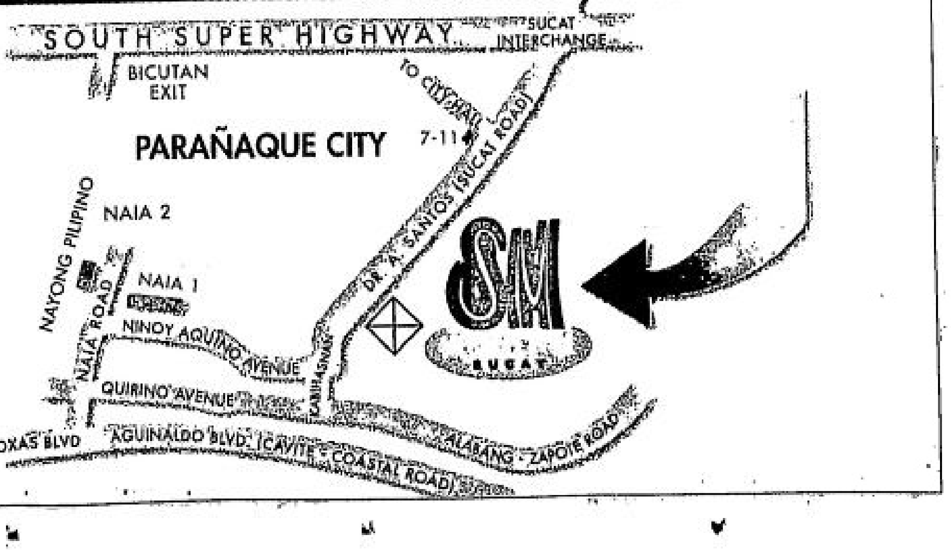


Broken promises, messages of faith and bittersweet sentiments in new albums

By Mary Ann A. Bautista

'I Need You'
LeAnn Rimes
Warner Music

YOU'LL like this album if you want a dose of gushy love lyrics and sad songs that speak of broken promises. Of course, LeAnn Rimes did just that with her song "How Do I Live" in 1997. Her voice can be sultry or sweet and gentle.

"I Need You" inspires and really makes you believe that love can indeed go on forever. The melody is soothing and the lyrics are mushy.

Freedom

Listening to the lines, "I need you like water, like breath, like rain. I need you like mercy, from heaven's gate. There's a freedom in your arms that carries me through, I need you" makes you want to cuddle up to someone.

Finding and being with the right partner really gives you a true sense of freedom, peace, joy and gratitude. Hearing this song would make you crave for the kind of love that's quite hard to find these days: no demands, no expectation, just pure love.

A duet with Elton John in "Written in the Stars" is sentimental and bittersweet. This song speaks of true love that's not meant to be. The lines "Sometimes in my darkest thoughts I wish I'd never learnt what it is to be in love and have that love return" touch the heart without being too melodramatic.

LeAnn Rimes

RIMES. Love without expectations.

"You Are" makes you remember the kind of devotion you give your loved one when you're at the peak of being in love.

"Soon" and "One of These Days" speak of a love gone sour and the hurt that lingers even if you're in the process of healing. The singing is laid-back and mellow but the words hit you when you least expect them to.

Truthful

"I Believe in You" and "Love Must Be Telling Me Something" are personal and truthful. They inspire you to be grateful for the precious moments that you spend with your loved ones. Love usually comes unexpectedly and when you truly find it, hold on to it.

It's obvious that LeAnn Rimes likes a solid, soulful melody, as exhibited throughout the album.

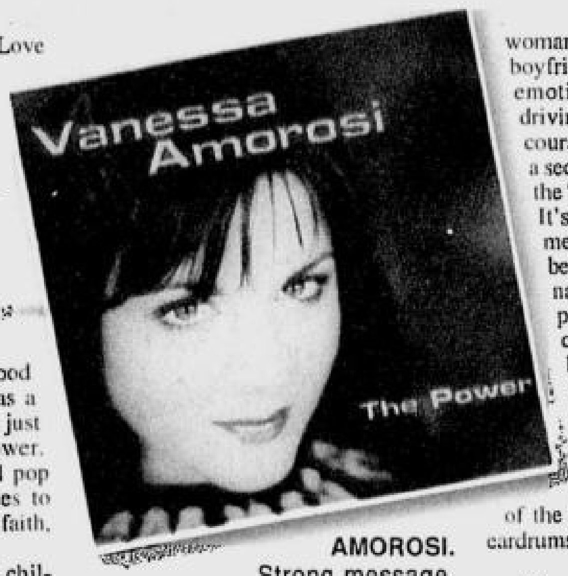
'The Power'
Vanessa Amorosi
MCA Universal

THIS album deserves a good second look. Vanessa has a sweet voice packed with just the right amount of power. Sure, she has the usual pop sound but she also tries to weave a clear, strong message of faith, hope and love in each song.

Working with disadvantaged children and the terminally ill has made her more compassionate and sensitive, and her sad songs benefit from this, because she infuses them with gentle passion and feeling. It's heartfelt but restrained.

She sings with delicate, infectious tones. She almost sounds like Olivia Newton-John, but with a perky, girlish appeal.

She's also a gifted songwriter and she composed most of the songs in this album. "Shine" has an upbeat tempo but the lyrics have depth. It encourages you to have a positive outlook in life. Optimism is an infectious feeling and you should carry it around with you instead of sulking.



AMOROSI. Strong message.

Anxiety

"I Wanna Be Your Everything" is about the anxiety between boys and girls. It's about knowing that you like the guy and you want him to like you back because he's your type of guy, except that he's so "*torpe*."

"How Y' Livin" speak of a love gone sour. But this isn't your usual "mourning" song. Instead of wondering if he's happier with another woman, it asks if the other woman is happy with him, if he treats her right and if he's changed for the better.

"Have A Look" speaks about a woman wanting an ex-boyfriend back. It's an emotional and hard-driving song that encourages him to take a second look and see the "changes" in her. It's about seeing the mess she's caused before, mending her naughty ways and proving that she can indeed be a better person after their failed relationship, if he'd only give her a chance.

If you're down in the dumps, this album can perk you up and help you get rid of the blues. It's also good on your eardrums.

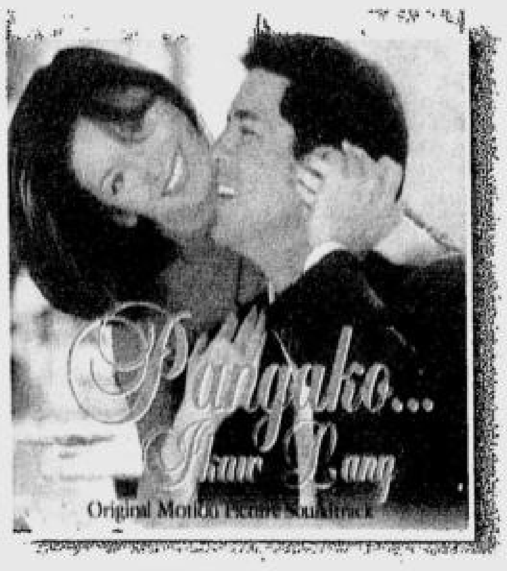
'Pangako...Ikaw Lang'
(movie soundtrack)
Regine Velasquez
VIVA Records

PINOYS generally like gentle sentimental songs and this album delivers. A soundtrack normally sells after the movie has been shown in the theaters, but this particular soundtrack can stand on its own.

"With A Smile" is a remake of the Eraserheads' original hit. It's a comfy, laid-back song full of warmth, sweetness and wit.

Trademark falsetto

"Pangako" is another Ogie Alcasid original. But Regine gives it a feminine, sweeter quality. Of course, you'll also hear her trademark falsetto because she wants to stamp it with her own style and personality.



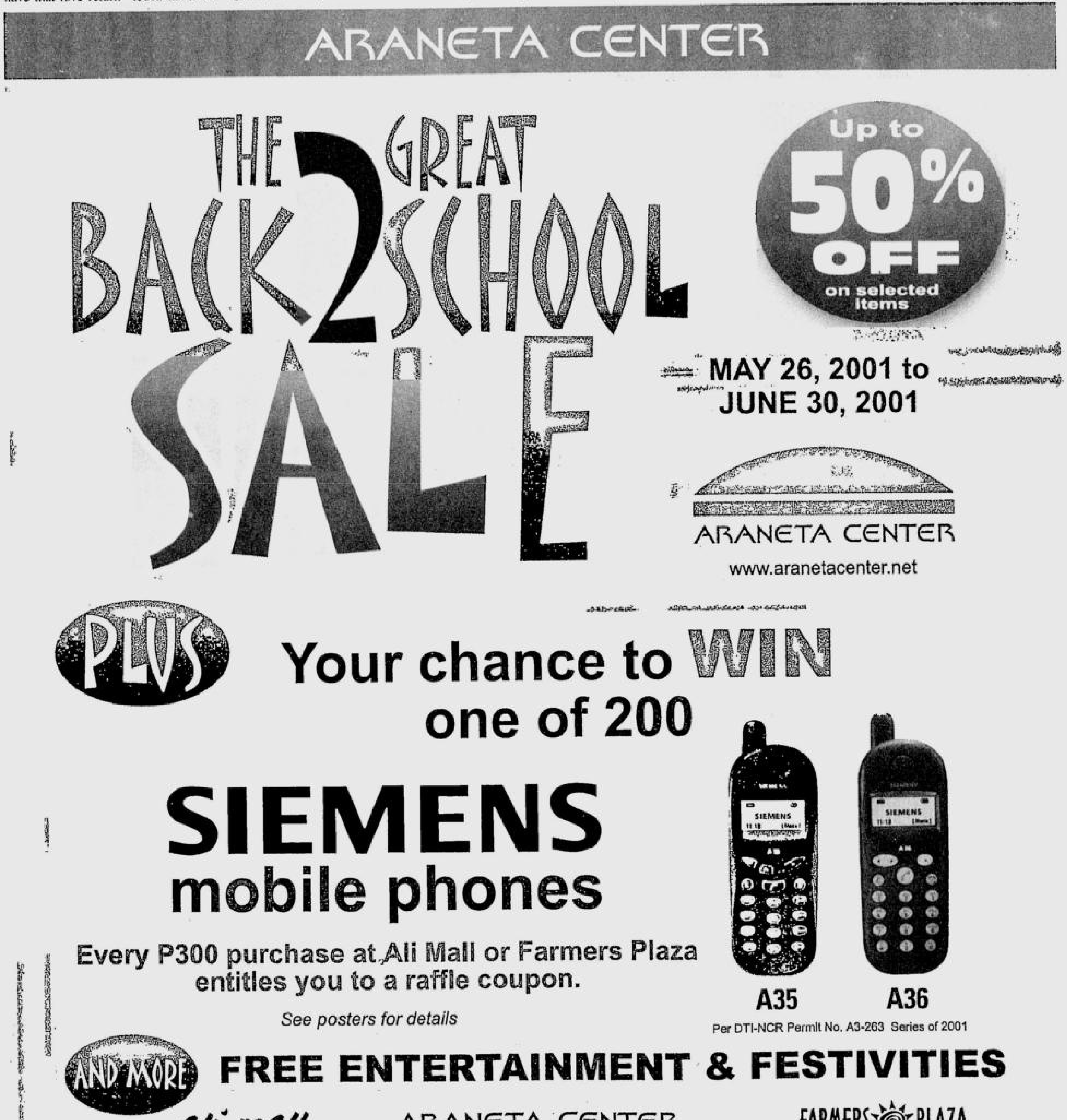
THE SOUNDTRACK can stand on its own.

"Someone To Watch Over Me" can bring you back to the era of your grandma. This duet with Robert Arevalo is a keeper. Their approach is subtle, solid and soulful.

"Tanging Mahal" is a romantic, bittersweet ballad. It speaks of yearning and love but the melody is simple and easy to remember.

"Sana Nga" holds a secret wish that the guy she's with is "The One." Every girl wants the current boy in her life to be Mr Right after going through a series of Mr Wrongs and this song pushes the sentiment with depth and confidence.

With this album, you'll begin to start thinking about life and love in the real sense. No nonsense, no frills, just honest-to-goodness truth!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'DR. T AND THE WOMEN'

Altman's most commercial film to date

ROBERT Altman is an actor's director. While making "Dr. T and The Women," the cast had nothing but respect and reverence for him for the way he gave each of them the freedom to express themselves. Altman believes that "once a film is cast, the art is turned over to them" and most of his creative job is done.

Altman is a multi-awarded director having won the Palme D'or for Best Film for "M*A*S*H," Best Director and Best Film for "The Player" and "Nashville" from the New York Film Critic's Circle, and a Best Director ("The Player") and Best Foreign Television series ("Tanner '88") from the British Academy. His film "Short Cuts" was also cited the Best Film in the Venice Film Festival Grand Prix.

Innovations

Altman also pioneered a lot of technical innovations in the film industry since he began his career. He pioneered in the use of zoom lens in filming as well as the use of multi-layered soundtracks. He has also been credited with assembling a remarkable ensemble of a cast in some of his films like "Nashville," "Short Cuts," "Pret-a-Porter," "A Wedding" and "Dr. T and The Women."

Screenwriter Anne Rapp marks her second collaboration with Altman on "Dr. T and The Women." She first worked with Altman on "Cookie's Fortune" which gave her a nomination for Best Screenplay in both the IFP/West Independent Spirit Award and Edgar Award organized by the Mystery Writers of America.

Gynecologist

In "Dr. T and The Women," Rapp writes a comedic romance around the life of a Dallas gynecologist, Dr. Sullivan Travis, played by Richard Gere. The doctor of choice by the society's elite and the women at the country club where he belongs, Dr. T has it all—wealth, health, a lovely family and all the women he wants. He prides himself in knowing women well although he seems to be looking at them from the wrong end.

Eventually, this all too perfect picture starts to disintegrate and chaos takes over his life. His marriage falls apart as his wife, Kate (Farrah Fawcett) regresses into a childlike state.

His daughters DeeDee (Kate Hudson) and Connie (Tara Reid), are fighting over DeeDee's wedding preparations and her odd choice of Marilyn (Liv Tyler), whom she barely knows, as her maid of honor.

Adding to the chaos is Peggy, Kate's sister played by Lauren Dern. Peggy and her three young daughters move in with the Travises as she sorrowfully deals with her pending divorce and obvious addiction to alcohol.

Golf course

Overwhelmed by the turmoil, Dr. T frequents the country club's golf course. There, he meets Bree (Helen Hunt), the club's golf pro and is immediately drawn to her honesty and straightforward personality. In the end though, Rapp is able to ad some twists to the story that is quite surprising.

"Dr. T and The Women" is Altman's most commercial film to date. Supported by an ensemble of stellar personalities like Richard Gere, Helen Hunt, Shelley Long, Janine Turner, Robert Hays, Matt Malloy and scores of other Dallas women, the movie will surely be a delightful look into relationships between men and women amidst the backdrop of the Dallas way of life.

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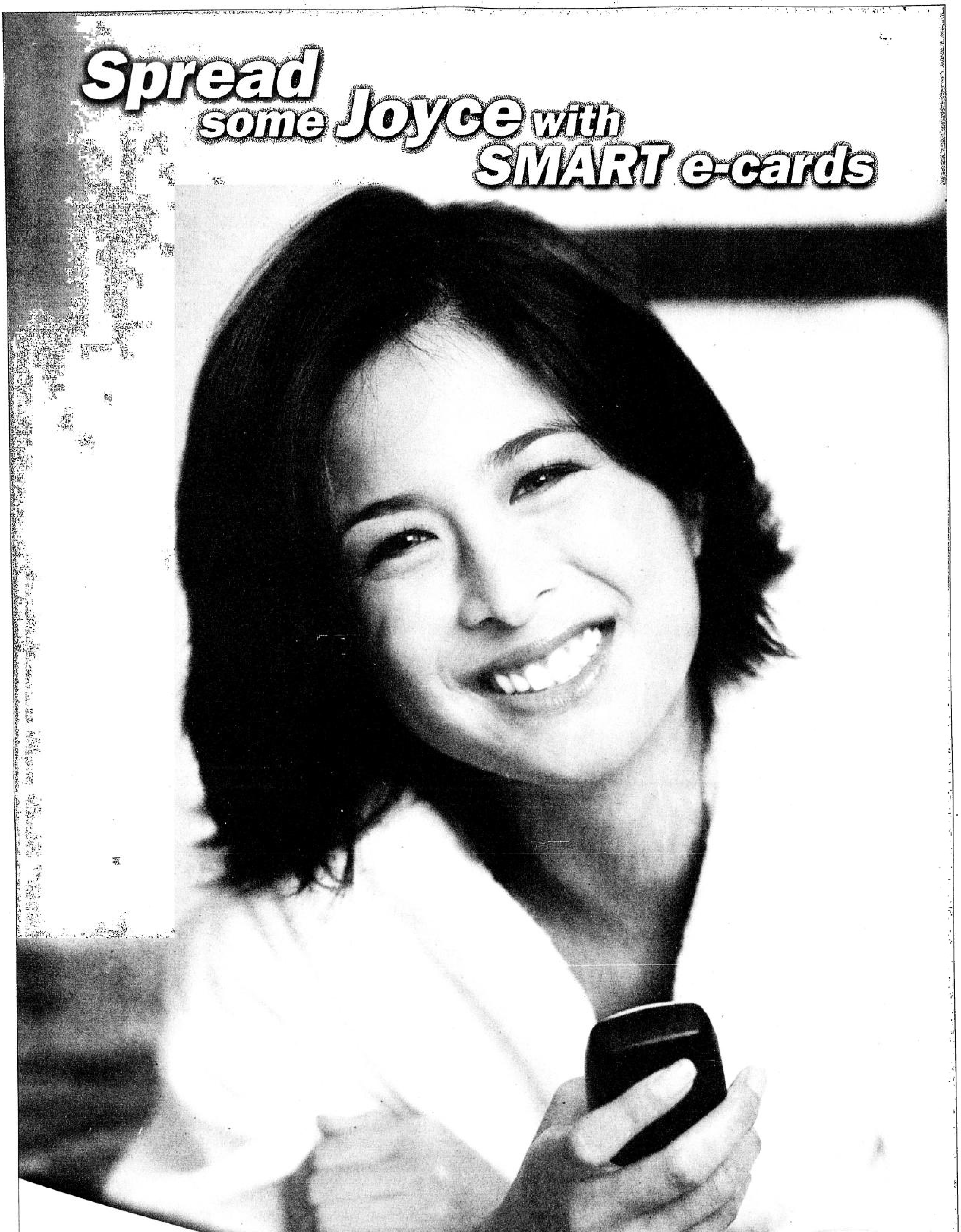

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'Vagina Monologues' in Filipino

NVC founder Monique Wilson with associate artistic directors Andrew Vergara (left) and Rito Asilo.

THE NEW Voice Company announces its series of shows for the second quarter of the year. After it's successful runs of "The Vagina Monologues" in Manila, Hong Kong and Singapore, the show has gone on an equally successful provincial tour.

Concert version

Last February, it once again played to sold out houses with a special concert version of the play entitled "Purple Rose . . . an Evening With The Vagina Monologues" featuring 35 performers.

The show was a special V-Day event—an international movement spearheaded by TVM playwright Eve Ensler—to end violence against women.

From Aug. 31 to Sept. 15, "The Vagina Monologues" will invade Manila once again—this time in Filipino. The translations are by award-winning playwrights, poets and writers Dr. Glecy Atienza, Dr. Joi Barrios and Ms Luna Sicat.

The play features theater actress Lara Fabregas—who leads the new cast. Lara, who replaced Monique Wilson in the play (Monique is finishing her MA in Drama in London) has already been performing the show in its national/provincial tour. "The Vagina Monologues" in Filipino will run at the Music Museum. NVC associate artistic director Rito Asilo directs.

The Filipino translation run in Manila begins a worldwide tour for NYC's hit play. A US, Canada and European tour will run from November 2001 to March 2002.

Monique Wilson, joined by other actresses, will be appearing in a Filipino/English version of the play in London, Amsterdam, Milan, Geneva, Frankfurt, Berlin, Brussels, New York, San Francisco, Chicago, Seattle and Vancouver.

Support groups

The tour is jointly produced by the Gabriela Networks in the US, Canada, Holland, London and other women network support groups who spearhead the Purple Rose Campaign in these cities.

The tour, as well as the Manila run, is a fundraising and awareness project for the Purple Rose Campaign—an international campaign to end sex trafficking of Filipino women and children—of which Wilson is a spokesperson and a committee member of 100.

Other shows of the New Voice Company this year include "Classical Monique" at the Edinburgh International Fringe Theatre Festival. The play, a reflection on womanhood, makes its European debut after being performed in the Philippines and at the Hong Kong Fringe Theatre Festival last 2000. The show will run from Aug. 6-11 at 9 p.m. Monique Wilson acts and directs this one-woman show.

The New Voice Company resident actors will perform in a special theatrical concert entitled "Revolutionary Hearts" at the Music Museum on Nov. 22 and 29. The concert reflects the social, cultural and political issues of the country as seen through the eyes of young Filipinos.

Inspiring

The evening is an inspiring and provocative theatrical piece with songs, visual interplay, movement and text. NVC associate artistic director Andrew Vergara directs and choreographs the 25-strong members of the New Voice Company.

From Aug. 4th to Dec. 1st, the NVC Actors Studio is opening its weekly theater workshop series. Classes offered are Acting/Musical Theatre and Singing for kids, teens and adults, Jazz for teens and adults, Directing, Playwriting, Stage/Production Management and Technical Theater.

Call the NVC Actors Studio at 899-0630 or e-mail at nvcpost@hotmail.com.

Big family entertainment from Pokemon

IT'S another extravaganza of fun, prizes and surprises for the entertainment pleasure of kids and the whole family when this year's biggest Pokemon event unfolds on Sunday, June 24, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., at the Megatrade Hall 3, Bldg. B, SM Megamall with a day-long program of games and other fun activities.

Another big crowd of Pokemon fanatics is expected to troop to SM Megamall and participate in one of this year's ultimate Pokemon events, which will be highlighted by the mid-year tournament of the Pokemon Trading Card Game (TCG).

Mechanics

Exciting activities and features have been lined up for Pokemon fans, old and new, including a demo area for newcomers who wish to learn the mechanics of the Pokemon TCG, and a League area where members can play and trade cards. League members can earn points by joining various activities during the day.

The Pokemon TCG tournament area feathers the TCG Challenge in the junior and senior divisions, in which a maximum of 128 players can compete and vie for the championship that offers as grand prizes an I Mac computer form Apple Philippines, plus a Canon Scanner and Printer and Pokemon TCG Neo Discovery booster packs.

Delegates from as far as Angeles City in the north and Cagayan de Oro City in the south have confirmed their participation in the tournament.

Expected to be another big crowd-drawer is the "King of the Hill" contest, an informal tournament in which players randomly battle each other to gain three consecutive victories and emerge as winner.

Prizes

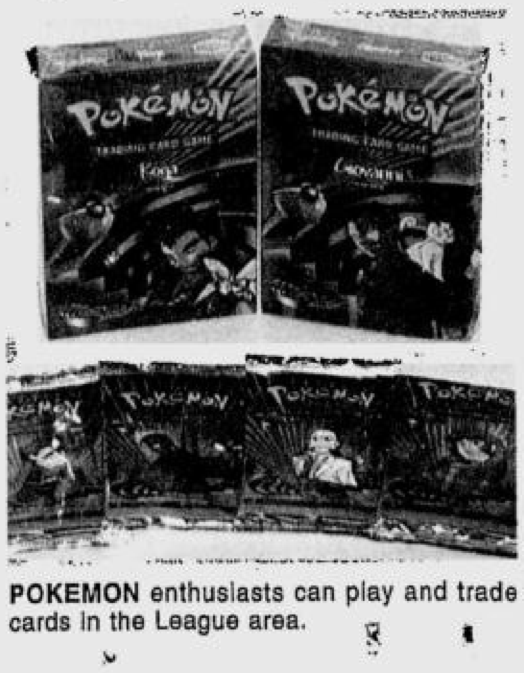
At the Pokemon Center Stage, kids can win prizes from sponsors by joining trivia games about Pokemon, while the Pokemon Interactive Zone is the venue where they can learn to play and create their own Pokemon trading cards through the use of Pokemon Interactive CD provided by Apple Philippines Inc. and Canon Philippines.

Youngsters will be held spellbound at the Pokemon Wall Maze where they can search for hidden Pokemon characters and color them with the use of Li'l Hands art materials from Amspec.

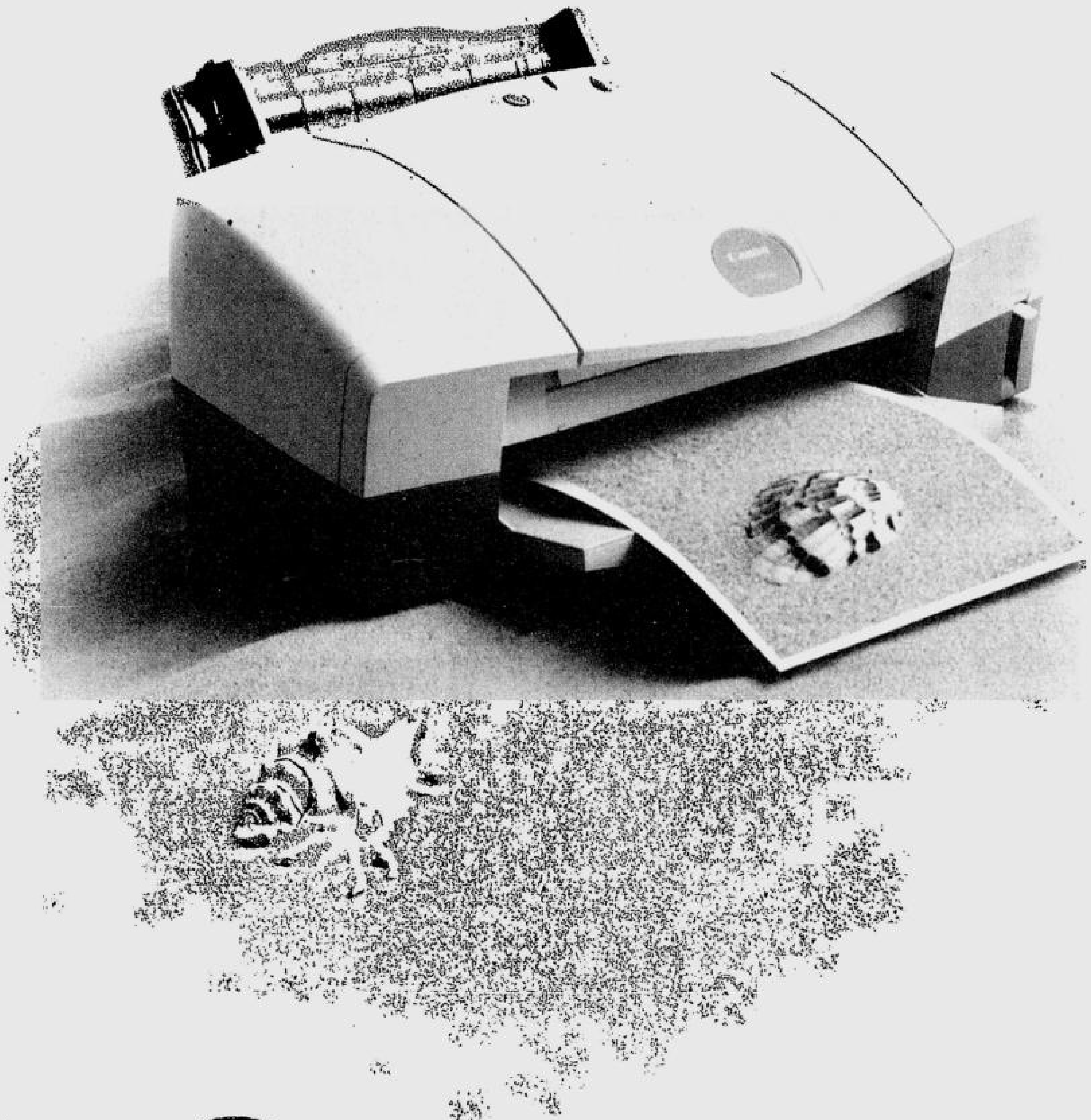
They will get the treat of a lifetime when they meet and greet the lovable Pikachu and another surprise Pokemon character at a special times during the day.

An added attraction is a Photo Zone with a giant Aerodactyl card as background sponsored by Canon.

Aside form these Pokemon-related activities. kids will also be treated to Nestle's Chocolait Jump-O-lene, mini-golf, face painting, balloon sculpturing and fun carnival games.



POKEMON enthusiasts can play and trade cards in the League area.



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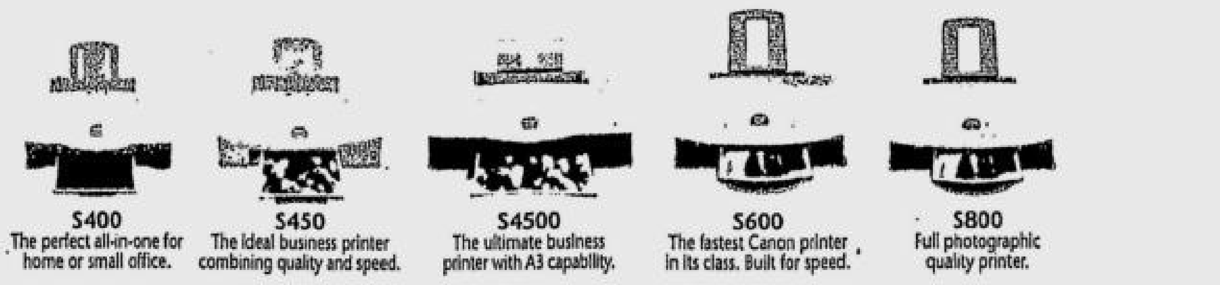

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RIVERMAYA. A rich repertoire of originals.

Rivermaya signs up with Viva Records

By Remy M. Umerez

ADD the name of Rivermaya, one of the country's established rock acts, to the glittering roster of stars under Viva Records. The band has signed an eight-year recording deal in what looks like a marriage made in heaven between Rivermaya and Viva.

Next level

Vincent del Rosario, CEO of Viva Records, says: "We want to take Rivermaya to the next level. We have big plans for them and the newly released "Buhay Kamao" soundtrack is just the tip of the iceberg."

Rico Blanco, the spokesperson of the group, states that it is not the money which lured them to sign up with the Viva Entertainment group.

"We felt a different kind of vibration after talking to Vincent. There was enthusiasm and sincere interest on his part as he seriously listened to the kind of record projects we like to produce. *Ang pakiramdam namin ay alam niya ang aming saloobin bilang* artists. We feel his concern. We are excited working for the first time with a recording outfit that keeps the tradition of supporting Filipino artists."

Rivermaya has an impressive track record of coming out with album releases, scoring double or triple platinum.

Beginning with the band's very first No. 1 hit "Ulan" in 1994, through such unforgettable and anthemic songs as "214," "Awit ng Kabataan." "Himala," "Hinahanap-Hanap Kita," "Nerbiyoso" and "Faithless," it's always been an exciting musical journey with Rivermaya.

Third album

In 1997, when their third album "Atomic Bomb" was released, the group was named Band of the Year. The effort also produced four No. 1 songs on the music charts: "Hinahanap-Hanap Kita," "Elesi," "Kung Ayaw Mo, Huwag Mo" and "If."

A landmark was the release of Rivermaya's remixed album in 1998. A first in the country, it features dance remixes by top Manila deejays of Rivermaya's greatest hits.

They have built a reputation for standing up for the rights of recording artists. In 2000, their "Free" album released independently by the band, won the NU Rock Award for Best Album. It was both a salute and vindication given to Rivermaya by its fellow artists. The album was released on the Internet, another first for any artist.

Favorite

Their rich repertoire of originals, most of them composed by chief songwriter Rico Blanco, has made them a favorite on the concert scene all over the country.

Rivermaya's first under Viva Records is the release of "Alab ng Puso," theme song for Viva Films Robin Padilla starrer "Buhay Kamao." Penned by Rico Blanco, it is gearing up to be the event song of the year, with two music videos (one for cable TV release and the other for theatrical exhibition).

Rivermaya has three new members personally screened by Rico. They are Kakoi Legaspi, guitar; Mike Elgar, guitar; and Japs Sergio on bass. The other original member is Mark Escueta on drums.

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Mrs. Nina Yap
Pre-school Teacher, Mother

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Come to think of it, it's still my Lola's recipe -- with a delightful twist: **Lea and Perrins Worcestershire Sauce.** I'm sure she'll be so proud of me!"

Chicken Pork Adobo *a la Lea and Perrins*

Ingredients:

1/2 kilo pork liempo, cut into large cubes
1/2 kilo fresh chicken, cut up in pieces
2 cloves macerated garlic
1 teaspoon whole peppercorns
2-3 pieces bay leaves
1/2 cup native vinegar
1 cup soup stock or water
2 tbsps. soy sauce
1 tbsp. ***Lea and Perrins Worcestershire Sauce***

Procedure:

Marinate chicken and pork in a mixture of soy sauce, garlic, peppercorns, bay leaves, vinegar and Lea and Perrins Worcestershire Sauce. Do not stir and let stand for 10 minutes.

Put the whole marinated mixture in a-saucepan over medium heat and cook without stirring. Let it boil first then stir. Simmer until chicken is done and some sauce had evaporated.

Take out the chicken and continue simmering. Add soup stock until pork is tender to the touch and sauce is beginning to thicken.

Put back the chicken and finish cooking over low heat until pork begins to shed some fat and the chicken becomes brown.

Remove from fire, take out the bay leaves and serve hot.

Makes 4-5 servings.

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Anselle takes home a bride

FACE TO FACE

Inday Badiday

TWO Thursdays ago, I stood as a principal sponsor in a beautiful wedding. It was the wedding of Anselle Beluso to Joyce Supnet. It was special because Anselle used to be gay—a raging faggot, as he described himself in the past.

Memories

I've known Anselle for all of his years in show business. As he was marching down the aisle that hot and humid afternoon, a flood of memories came rushing through my mind. Like, he was one of my favorite panelists on "See True" because he was among the brightest and wittiest at the time.

At one point, in a heated discussion about censorship, he pointedly asked Ishmael Bernal, "Is a filmmaker's freedom of expression more important than the citizens' right to be protected against smut?" The feisty film master effortlessly minced him with a curt and dramatic, "Yes" and nothing else—but for Anselle to have the tenacity to take on the late, great Ishma was already an achievement.

In another episode, we guested a slew of boldies collectively called the Street Beauties—their screen names were borrowed from the names of streets, like Epifania de los Santos and Aurora Boulevard. Anselle noted the immensity of their frontal assets by inquiring with all the seriousness I was sure he'd have given to a query on nuclear physics, *"Tunay ba yang boobs nyo?"*

I myself was shocked by the question and immediately cued for a commercial break. You understand, this was long before it became OK for sexy stars to openly brag about the wonders of science.

Best argument

At that time, I got some flak for putting movie scribes on television because their flamboyant homosexuality was then deemed a bad moral influence. But I insisted that there were a lot of entertainment journalists who also deserved to be seen and heard and not just read. My best argument for that was Anselle.

As the years flew by, Anselle became a friend. I took him in as writer-director, but he is so much more than just that. We used to waste the nights away with just cigarettes, booze and each other for company, crying and laughing over love and life in the dizzying fantasy world of show business.

Even though I'm older in years, he's more mature in other things. I'd run to him for advice especially in matters of the heart, and he was one of only a few who could criticize me, harshly, without my taking offense because I knew he cared for me.

And I cared for him, too. There were nights that I prayed for him because, as I was already preparing for bed, I knew he was still out there foraging both for love and lust in the dark nooks of the city.

When Anselle first told me of his spiritual transformation which made him turn away from the active homosexuality he once embraced, I confess that I was a little cynical. He'd tell me of the pains he went through as he valiantly battled against his demons, but I didn't want to risk offending him.

Splendor

But when he finally introduced me to his girlfriend and I saw for myself how in love they were with each other, I was stupefied and left with no other choice but to marvel at the magnificent splendor of God's transforming power.

I cried on Anselle's wedding, when Anselle's 10-year-old adopted son, Bimbom was asked to join them for the picture-taking. I recalled my fears when Anselle took in the barely two-month-old infant. How could someone who was so gay ever perform the all-too-male role of father?

I remember the time when Bimbom was asking Anselle who his mother was. Anselle found the answer when he stood as principal sponsor in a wedding and he posed with the bride, asking the groom to step aside for a while. When the photo was developed, it did appear that Anselle was the groom, and he showed that picture to his son, claiming the bride as the child's mom.

Such duplicities are over now. For Anselle has taken home a bride—a wife for him and a mother to Bimbom. During the wedding, the child was smiling from ear to ear and my eyes misted with unhidden tears of joy.

Finally, Anselle has done right by his son. I remember, Bimbom cried and cried when Anselle broke off, under very acrimonious circumstances, with the guy whom he (Bimbom) grew up to acknowledge as his dad. Anselle put up a brave front, but deep inside, he felt a throbbing pain in the empty space where his heart used to be.

Real-life miracle

There were some movie people who gave a powerful rendition of the Lord's Prayer during the mass. I'm sure, more than not wanting to miss the biggest event in the life of a friend, they also treasured the opportunity to witness a real-life miracle as it most splendidly unfolded.

I salute the Couples for Christ family renewal community as the cocoon that nurtured Anselle's process of transformation. God truly works in their midst, using them to bring people back to Him.

Indeed, their support as Anselle struggled with his area of sinfulness must be limitless for him to finally be liberated from his enslavement. Groups like Couples for Christ are God's hands that make us believe again in the Lord's boundless love, mercy and forgiveness.

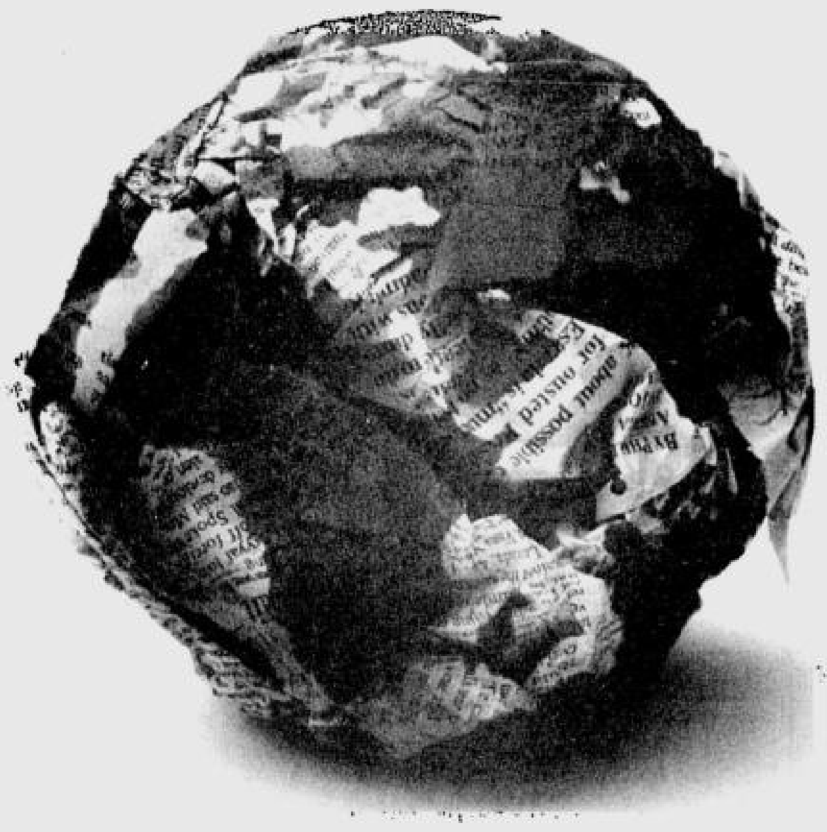
Anselle and Joyce, I'm humbled by the experience of seeing God in your love and in your life. Thank you for the gift of inspiration that you so genuinely give to people like me who have become so jaded and blasé with the ways of the world.

You are a blessing to each other, to your family, to your Couples for Christ community, and to all of us who have been drawn closer to the Lord because of you.

My wish for you: An Anselle Jr. or a little Joyce soon, very soon. I know you'll have all the time for that when you go on your European honeymoon next month.

JOYCE and Anselle are feted with petals by their friends and family members.

THE WEDDING entourage, plus relatives of the bride and groom.



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ENTERTAINMENT BOOKSHELF

Tom Stoppard goes from obscure journalist to acclaimed playwright

By Noelani Torre

(Conclusion)

LATER, Stoppard turned to television once again, and radio as well, with "Teeth," "Another Moon Called Earth," and "Albert's Bridge." The first two are half-hour television plays, "Teeth" dealing with the revenge that a cuckolded dentist exacts and "Another Moon Called Earth" picking up from a previous novel, "Lord Malquist and Mr. Moon."

Genius for radio

The radio play, "Albert's Bridge," impresses Billington with Stoppard's "superb" radio writing. It is here where what he calls the writer's "genius for radio" emerges.

In the third chapter, "Philosophy and Fireworks," the author provides analyses of eight of Stoppard's plays, wherein the ideas and themes he used in earlier works recur in full force. These are: "The Real Inspector Hound;" "Neutral Ground;" "Where Are They Now?" "After Magritte;" "Dogg's Our Pet;" "Jumpers;" Artist Descending a Staircase;" and "Travesties."

"The Real Inspector Hound," staged in 1968, was not as popular with critics as his first. Billington, however, thinks it is "a well-made play with neither spare flesh nor loose ends." Stoppard followed this with the TV play "Neutral Ground," based on Sophocles's "Philoctetes." A critic calls it "a very ingenious adaptation wherein, finally, the characters portray emotion." "Almost for the first time in one of his plays," Billington says, "Stoppard makes us care about the people."

"Where Are They Now" also has "touches of true feeling" but "After Magritte" does not please the critic half as much because of its exasperating archness.

Amusing piece

"Dogg's Our Pet" he terms a "slight, amusing piece" and the radio play "Artist Descending a Staircase" he calls "a diabolically clever work that, at the same time, savagely lampoons modern art."

Five years after the staging of his first full-length play, Stoppard came out with "Jumpers." Much awaited, it "proved beyond doubt his brilliance, his daring, his determination to extend the possibilities of the stage." Needless to say, "Jumpers" was a success.

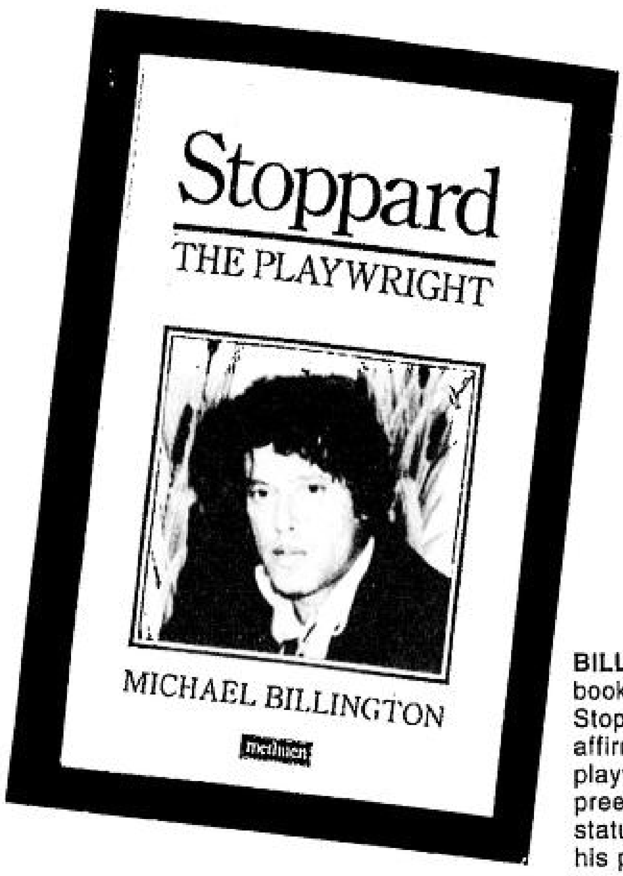
Billington ends this chapter with a discussion of "Travesties," a stage play that expounds at greater length on most of the ideas in "Artist Descending a Staircase." Here Stoppard shows how preoccupied he is with art, artists, and their function in society.

The play attacks socialist art theories and favors political noncommitment, the latter a stand which Billington finds "the ultimate irony, considering Stoppard's later commitment to human rights."

The fourth chapter, "Summary Convictions," shows a Stoppard getting ready to jump down from the ideological fence he had been sitting on since the start of his career. Four plays are tackled here: "Dirty Linen," "Every Good Boy Deserves Favour," "Professional Foul," and "Night and Day."

Farce

"Dirty Linen" is a farce about sex and politicians in which, significantly, Stoppard has "a clear, unequivocal point of view." He follows this up with "Every Good Boy Deserves Favor" in 1977, a play about a Russian political prisoner sharing a hospital cell with a madman who believes himself to be the conductor of an orchestra.



BILLINGTON'S book on Stoppard affirms the playwright's preeminent status among his peers.

Billington labels this a "Lewis Carrol in the Soviet Union" and says that this play marks a turning point in Stoppard's work, where he starts dealing with human rights and their suppression. This is confirmed by the TV play "Professional Foul," where his verbal brilliance is coupled with moral and political convictions. This is driven further home by the play "Night and Day," which Billington calls "provocative, needling and written from the heart as well as the head."

The fifth chapter, "Cricket Bats and Passion," shows a Stoppard nearing middle age. Billington wondered whether "he could bring intellect and passion into simultaneous play."

Stoppard's "Undiscovered Country," a version of Arthur Schnitzler's "Das Weite Land," made Billington wonder no more. Through this play, Stoppard was able to "extend his emotional range" and "write about the vagaries of human passion."

His next major work was staged in 1982. Billington describes "The Real Thing" as Stoppard's best-structured, best-written and most mature play.

Espionage

Stoppard turned comic again with "The Dogg It Was That Died," a "deliciously absurd radio play" about espionage. In "Squaring the Circle" he tries his hand at drama-documentary and in "Rough Crossing" he has his first flop.

He adapts another Schnitzler play which he titles "Dalliance." Billington is not at all happy with Stoppard's latest adaptations ("Rough Crossing" was one). He explains, "What we crave from Stoppard is another new play of his own."

Billington repeats this in the last chapter, "Stoppard in Context," where he places the playwright amongst his peers. It appears that Stoppard has always been different—in style, tone, choice of themes, and in the glaring lack of political certainty. He was writing about eccentric, erudite individuals when other playwrights were focusing on political and social change.

Billington regrets that Stoppard, who is quite a genius, has paid so much attention to adaptations. "I crave new work from Tom Stoppard," he says, "because whatever he is, he is not safe or bland . . . Whatever he does, the words 'a new Stoppard' will continue to send a quiver of anticipation down my back."

Music reigns supreme in 'Calle 54'

By Nekesa Mumbi Moody

NEW YORK—It's inevitable that the new Latin jazz documentary "Calle 54" will be compared to the Academy Award-nominated "Buena Vista Social Club," the 1999 film that profiled the rich legacy of Cuba's forgotten musicians.

But whereas the "Buena Vista Social Club" focused mainly on stories of those legends, "Calle 54" focuses almost exclusively on the music itself.

Greats

Segments on greats like saxophonist Gato Barbieri and the late "Mambo King" Tito Puente are introduced with only brief biographical information before segueing into 10-minute performances.

Even the performances are pared down, filmed on a sound stage without an audience, elaborate stage sets or other theatrical trappings that might take attention from the music.

Spanish director Fernando Trueba's film rises and falls on the vitality of these miniconcerts. Luckily, for the most part, "Calle 54" is as vibrant and energetic as the performances.

Grammy-winning pianist Michel Camilo captivates with his rendition of "From Within"; his segment is especially riveting when Trueba zooms in on Camilo's hands feverishly pounding the keyboard.

And Puente, whose segment was one of only two shot against an eerily white background, gives a typically dazzling performance as he leads his band on the song "New Arrival."

Too short

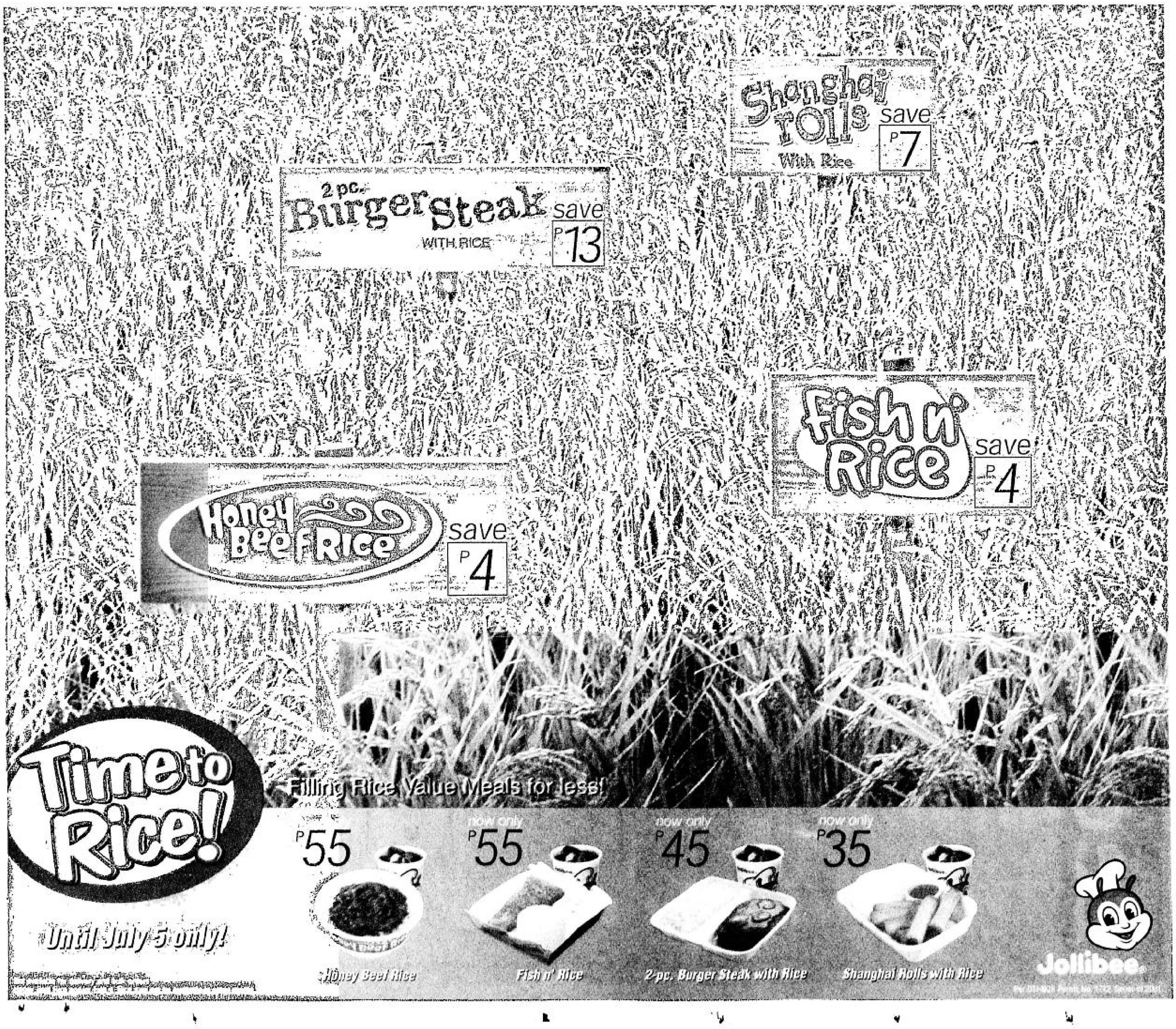
At times like these, the performances seem almost too short. At other times, such as the surprisingly uninspired performance by Barbieri, viewers may find themselves looking at their watches.

Although little attention is paid to these entertainers' lives, sometimes brief snippets are revealing. For example, Barbieri explains his 14-year absence from the music scene—his distaste for today's Latin jazz—by describing the music as "a toboggan . . . going downhill fast."

A touching, humorous moment comes when Cuban piano great Chucho Valdes is reunited with his elderly father Bebo Valdes, also a pianist, whom he hadn't seen in years. As the father hugs his rotund son, he remarks, in Spanish, "You're as fat as a toad!"

They both laugh.

But the emotion of this reunion pales in comparison to the synergy between the two men when they perform together on "La Comparasa." As their eyes meet while they perform dueling piano parts, the viewer can only imagine their thoughts. *AP*



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HBO invades Normandy for miniseries premiere

By Edmund L. Sicam

(Conclusion)

WHEN we first heard about HBO's "Band of Brothers," we thought Tom Hanks was going to star in it and wondered why the actor would do another film on D-Day after exploring similar territory in "Saving Private Ryan."

Later, we found out that he was not in the miniseries but was signing on as one of two executive producers (the other one was Steven Spielberg) and director of one of the 10 episodes. He does have a brief appearance as a British officer in the episode that he directs.

Come-on

Two weeks ago, HBO Asia invited us to witness the premiere of the miniseries in Normandy, France and as expected, the come-on was that Hanks would attend the event and hold a press conference before the screening. Members of the cast would also be there but nobody with Hanks' drawing power. The only names that rang a bell were those of David Schwimmer and Colin Hanks, son of Tom by his first wife, Samantha Lewes.

In preparation for the event, we scoured the net for pieces of information on "BOB." Hanks stumbled on "Band of Brothers," a book by Stephen Ambrose, while doing research for "Saving Private Ryan" and he felt, "Here was a story that needed a vast amount of time to tell." Spielberg had optioned another Ambrose book, "Citizen Soldiers," but Hanks persuaded him that "BOB" was a story with a more manageable scale.

"I think 'Saving Private Ryan' ended up landing in the social consciousness for many reasons," says Hanks. "Maybe it was the millennium. And there was a realization that so many participants [in D-Day] are now leaving us quickly.

"The place the film held in the zeitgeist was this massive amount of reflection that the movie itself couldn't encompass. It paved the way to go off and explore other themes. And another expensive feature can't do it the way a long-form TV series can."

Hanks and Spielberg pitched it to several outfits but HBO won out because of Hanks' experience with the cable company on "From the Earth to the Moon."

Flexible

"HBO [executives] were also flexible," Hanks said. "We could shoot an episode that lasted 66 minutes, or 48 minutes, if we wanted. There are no commercial breaks; you can say and do what you want; and if you come in second in the ratings, they don't care.'"

PHOTO BY ED SICAM

HANKS chats with a survivor of Easy Company after the premiere of "Band of Brothers."

Hanks admits thought that he's much happier being in front of the camera. "I must say this is the first time I have taken a director's role *and* executive producer's role, and it's very different," says Hanks.

"BOB" was filmed in Hatfield, England, the same place where "Saving Private Ryan" was shot, so returning to the scene was an emotional moment for Hanks. "The first time I walked back into the place, I almost broke down in tears," he recalled.

During his month-long directing stint, Hanks had to balance the best of British know-how with the worst of English weather. "We made a rule that we were going to shoot no matter what," he says. "Sometimes it rained in shots and sometimes it didn't. That's okay but it was cold when we were shooting summer scenes and warm and sunny in the winter ones. I don't know....it's never quite what it's supposed to be."

June 6, 2001, Hanks was in a specially made moviehouse on the beaches of Normandy to preview his work before war veterans and members of the international press. At the press conference, which was held at the theater, the organizers said Hanks only had 15 minutes to spare for the press, but he stayed longer. That was partly because an interpreter had to translate questions and answers in French for the local media. Also present at the gathering was HBO chief executive officer Jeff Bewkes.

Nothing controversial

Hanks clearly knew how to handle the press. He would not be tricked into saying anything controversial. When someone asked if he deplored Hollywood's glamorizing of the war without regard for historical accuracy, as exemplified by "Pearl Harbor" and "U-571," he merely said he hadn't seen the two movies.

His short comment: "It all comes down to a question of taste, and my personal taste would be to aim for as high a degree of accuracy as possible."

Hanks also ignored a question from a British journalist about a controversy regarding General Montgomery sparked by "Saving Private Ryan" and a female broadcaster who wanted to know whether he was portraying a villain in his next movie, "Road to Perdition."

When somebody asked him to comment about the lavish promotion for "Pearl Harbor," he merely said, "I don't know how many fireworks they used for the 'Pearl Harbor' premiere but we wanted to have an appropriate premiere, for 'Band of Brothers," in an appropriate place (Normandy) and an appropriate time (June 6)."

Hanks focused on "BOB" as he should have. Asked about the shoot, he remarked, "It was surreal. 'Band of Brothers' was four or five times the size of 'Private Ryan,' so a lot more people were involved and there was a lot more construction.

Hanks was all praises for his American and British cast. "Our actors gave of themselves in way that a lot of actors would not do. Part of the deal with them was that they'd have to come to work on days when they had no lines in the script. They had to come day after day when officially their characters were not in the scene because they were needed for the background shots in every scene. That they were ready to do so was an extraordinary thing."

Distant memory

Finally, someone asked what attracted him to World

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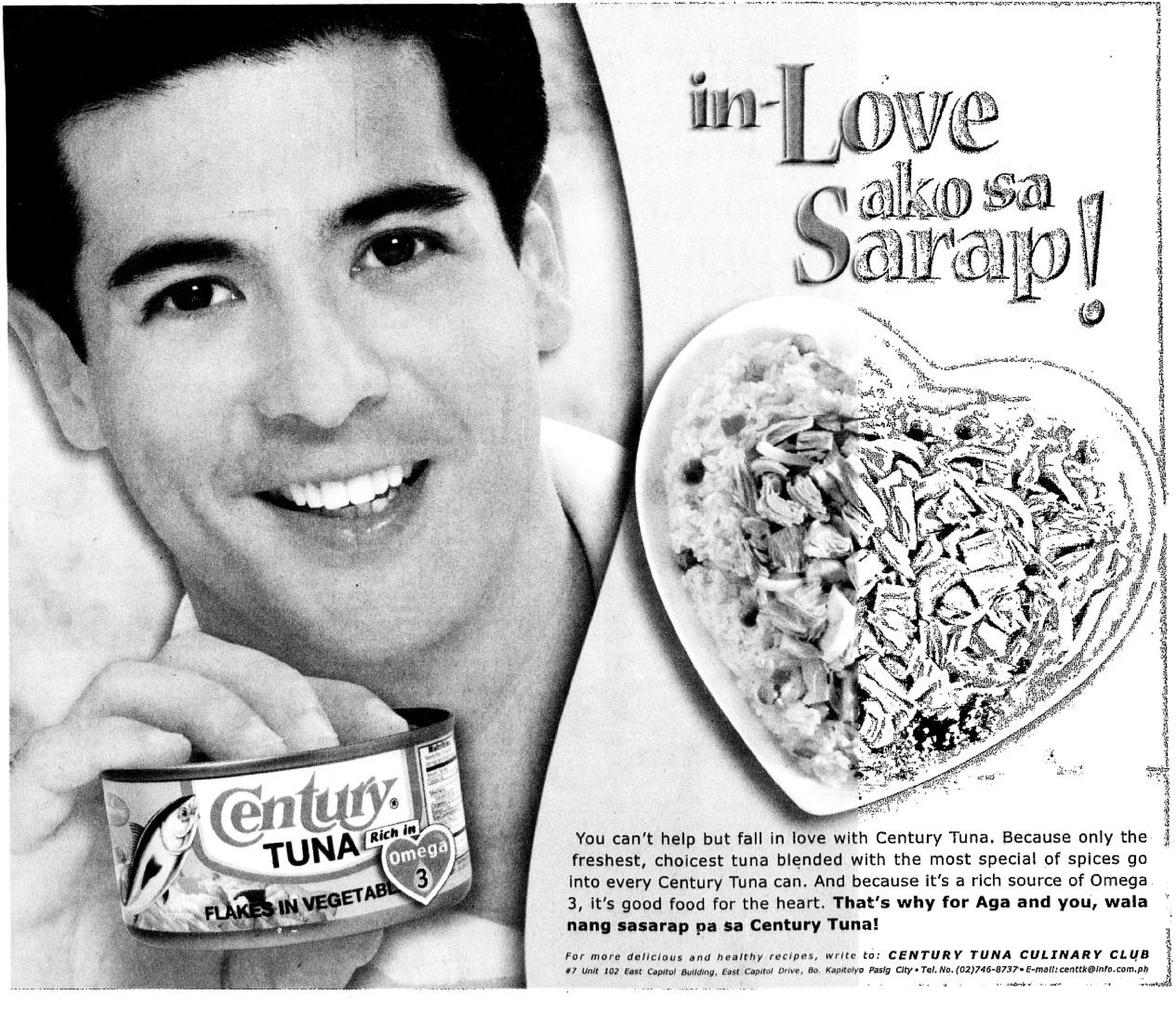

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Break the digital limits with 'Final Fantasy: The Spirits Within'

PREPARE to experience a new reality with Columbia Pictures' groundbreaking sci-fi adventure "Fi[illegible] Fantasy: The Spirits Within" which arrives at the beginning of an era of digital storytelling.

Recognized as a milestone in motion picture history, "Final Fantasy: The Spirits Within" is the first motion picture to simulate a full range of human emotions and movements with hyper-real human characters and backgrounds, all computer generated imagery. It is the first to use CGI (computer generated image) actors to bring a compelling and complex story to the screen.

Themes

"Final Fantasy: The Spirits Within" takes its journey of personal discovery into both the real and fan[illegible]s, drawing viewers deep into its complex characterizations and themes, its psychology and secrets.

The film is set in the year 2065. Earth is under siege. A meteor has crashed onto the planet, unleashing millions of alien creatures who roam the earth, decimating field and city alike, threatening to extinguish life itself. The survivors of the initial onslaught have retreated to barrier cities built to protect the inhabitants of Earth from the marauding invaders . . . but time is running out.

Yet the spirit of humankind is resilient and embodied in the brilliant and beautiful Dr. Aki Ross (voiced by Ming-Na). As determined as she is capable, Aki is Earth's last hope for defeating the alien predators.

Guidance

With the guidance of her scientific mentor Dr. Sid (voiced by Donald Sutherland) and the aid of the Deep Eyes military squadron led by the courageous Capt. Gray Edwards (voiced by Alec Baldwin), Aki races to save both the planet and herself.

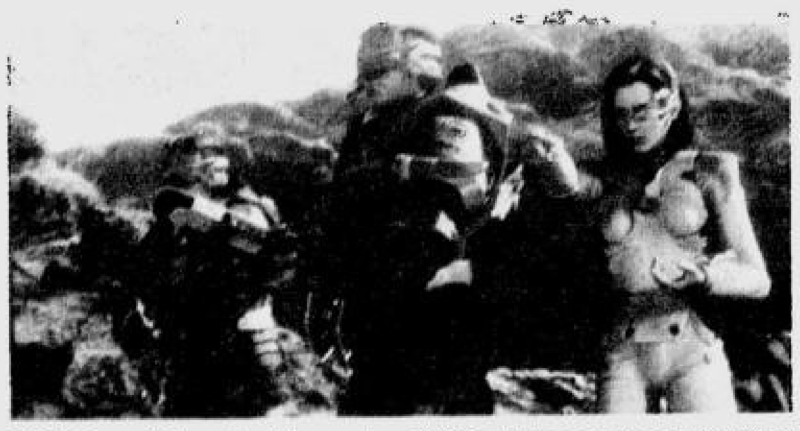
Prepare to be spellbound by an extraordinary woman, the brave individuals at her side, and an astounding mission to save the Earth.

Infected by an alien spirit, Aki holds the key to discovering the secret to defeating the alien creatures, but her quest is challenged by the militant opposition of General Hein (voiced by James Woods), who plots to unleash a massive space cannon that could destroy the enemy—and the earth as well.

As the clock ticks on, Aki searches her nightly dreams to find the answer to the alien mystery while scouring the earth to collect the eight spirits she believes will save the planet. In these dreams, a sadness and desolation is in her eyes as she stares at a wasteland around her. Harsh sunlight narrows her vision. As she stands alone, in clouds of dust on a scarred alien world, her eyes reveal an inner conflict.

Scheming

Fighting both the enemy within and the scheming General Hein, who would destroy the earth in order to save it, Aki valiantly pursues her final fantasy.



HYPER-realistic animation makes digititized characters come "alive" in "Final Fantasy."

'WOW 2001' features contemporary Christian music hits

By Jocelyn Valle

IGNORE the album design of "WOW 2001" and you'll still know that it's not your usual compilation recording. While listening to the double CD (containing 30 songs plus three bonus tracks) you'll hear no profanities, sexual innuendos, prejudiced views or twisted thoughts.

Message

At the heart of the familiar melodies of pop, soul, country, R&B, funk, rock, alternative-rock and dance music is the message of faith in Jesus Christ. "WOW 2001," which is locally distributed by Praise Music, features some of the finest examples of contemporary Christian music.

The musical genre's origins date back to the late '60s and flourished through the spirituality-conscious '70s. By the '80s, established mainstream performers began moving into Christian territory as Christian artists started being recognized by the general market. Today it's become both a ministry and a multimillion-dollar business. (And the subject of a lot of debates, too.)

The first track in the album, "Dive," for instance, was inspired by the pastor-friend of singer-songwriter Stephen Curtis Chapman. "One sermon gave an example of a fishing story where he was out with a friend standing chest-deep in a stream catching hundreds of trout everywhere they cast their rods," says the man best known for the ballad, "I Will Be Here," which Gary Valenciano revives in his latest album.

Amazed

"From the shore, onlookers were amazed because none of them had caught any fish. That experience is so much like what it is to follow Jesus Christ. If we're really going to do it, we've got to really dive in deep to lose ourselves in the flow of the living water. All of those emotions and experiences of excitement, risk and anticipation are what I wanted to capture in this song."

Rachel Lampa, on the other hand, shares that her song, "Live For You," explains how all lives should be lived. "Jesus Christ gave His life so that we could live," she points out.

"And even though He died, He is still present and working in our lives. He has found His way into our hearts and willingly counsels us through our trials. I have personally found out that it does take sacrifices.

"But I am willing to try to live for Him for the rest of my life. It's the least I can do when I think of all He has done for me."

For Jaci Velasquez, "Crystal Clear" is her personal love song to Jesus. "It reflects His perfect love for me, and how that love brings clarity to the mysteries in life," she intones.

"I can't imagine life without Him. The mystery has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but it is now disclosed to the saints. To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of Glory." (Colossians 1:26-27)

Memorial service

"Every Season" is very special for Nichole Nordeman, especially when she sang it for the first time at a friend's memorial service. "I was having a great deal of trouble reconciling the loss of his life and finding God—His presence—in the midst of it all," she recalls.

"I realized that it is far easier to believe in a God of spring than of winter. God is always present despite my circumstances and the seasons that feel the most chilly are most likely preparing me for the growth that comes with a new beginning."

"Red Letters," admit dc Talk's Kevin Max, Michael Tait and Toby McKeehan, is one of those songs that they were a little intimidated by. "Because we're talking about the words of Jesus Christ," they explain.

"There was a healthy fear of God that went on during the writing of the song. Nobody wanted to be wholly responsible, so we all added a little at a time. We wanted to face it in a holy, respectable manner. To take the words of Christ, a tribute to His word, was a thrill and quite a task. If someone asked us what to read in the Bible, we'd say 'read the red letters' because those are the words of Jesus."

Jars of Clay's "Unforgetful You" is the most popular selection in "WOW 2001." It's been played both in mainstream and Christian radio stations. Most listeners may not know it, but the engaging tune is about the band's realization of the difference between God and man.

Strength and mercy

"The ways God makes His strength and mercy known are most often through our awareness of our own mortality and human condition," elucidates band member Dan Haseltine.

Stacie Orrico sounds a lot like other teen pop singers except that she's wholesome and sensible. Explaining "Don't Look At Me," which she cowrote, she shows us why.

"The song's subject really hit me," she smiles. "Because it talked about people, especially teens, who wanted idols or heroes to look up to. I wanted to get the message across to them. No, don't look at me because if you're looking solely at me, then you are not going to see all you need to see Jesus through me."

The rest of the album follows the same direction. You just won't feel it because each track's beat is infectious and the album caters to different musical types.

LAMPA. Her song in the musical compilation is titled "Live For You."

'Flames,' 'G-Mik' or 'Tabing-Ilog?'

By Kathleen Angeli Torre

MORE TV shows are being produced for teenage viewers these days. Which ones click the most with their intended audience? Let's listen to some teen viewers as they speak for themselves:

"Tabing-Ilog.' It has such nice twists to its story at the appropriate times—when you least expect such things to happen. The twists work because I never get bored. You anticipate what's going to happen next, so it makes you reluctant to surf through the other channels.

"In 'Tabing-Ilog,' you see how the youth get into trouble. I can relate with the characters because I sometimes see things that I or my friends have done before.

In the case of 'G-Mik,' I just can't help but notice that they rarely have dialogue that doesn't start with "*Alam mo kasi, ganito yun.*" I sometimes get irritated listening to it."—***Angelica Heruela, 13***

Natural

"I like 'Tabing-Ilog' best. The characters in 'G-Mik' and 'Flames' are sometimes so immature, and all they do is try hard to be cute. But 'Tabing-Ilog' is natural and fresh and the characters are quite believable.

"The situations and problems are just right for the ages of the characters even if they never seem to run out of problems. You get to see what happens in college. You can appreciate the show because it runs longer. So even if the commercials take up so much time, *hindi ka nabibitin ng sobra*. In the other shows, they have such short stories that nothing much happens."—***Reneeliza Jean Melgar, 15***

* * *

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CAST of "Tabing-Ilog."

HBO invades . . . (From page E1)

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Break the digital limits with 'Final Fantasy: The Spirits Within'

PREPARE to experience a new reality with Columbia Pictures' groundbreaking sci-fi adventure "Fi[illegible] Fantasy :The Spirits Within" which arrives at the beginning of an era of digital storytelling.

Recognized as a milestone in motion picture history, "Final Fantasy: The Spirits Within" is the first motion picture to simulate a full range of human emotions and movements with hyper-real human characters and backgrounds, all computer generated imagery. It is the first to use CGI (computer generated image) actors to bring a compelling and complex story to the screen.

Themes

"Final Fantasy: The Spirits Within" takes its journey of personal discovery into both the real and fan[illegible]s, drawing viewers deep into its complex characterizations and themes, its psychology and secrets.

The film is set in the year 2065. Earth is under siege. A meteor has crashed onto the planet, unleashing millions of alien creatures who roam the earth, decimating field and city alike, threatening to extinguish life itself. The survivors of the initial onslaught have retreated to barrier cities built to protect the inhabitants of Earth from the marauding invaders . . . but time is running out.

Yet the spirit of humankind is resilient and embodied in the brilliant and beautiful Dr. Aki Ross (voiced by Ming-Na). As determined as she is capable, Aki is Earth's last hope for defeating the alien predators.

Guidance

With the guidance of her scientific mentor Dr. Sid (voiced by Donald Sutherland) and the aid of the Deep Eyes military squadron led by the courageous Capt. Gray Edwards (voiced by Alec Baldwin), Aki races to save both the planet and herself.

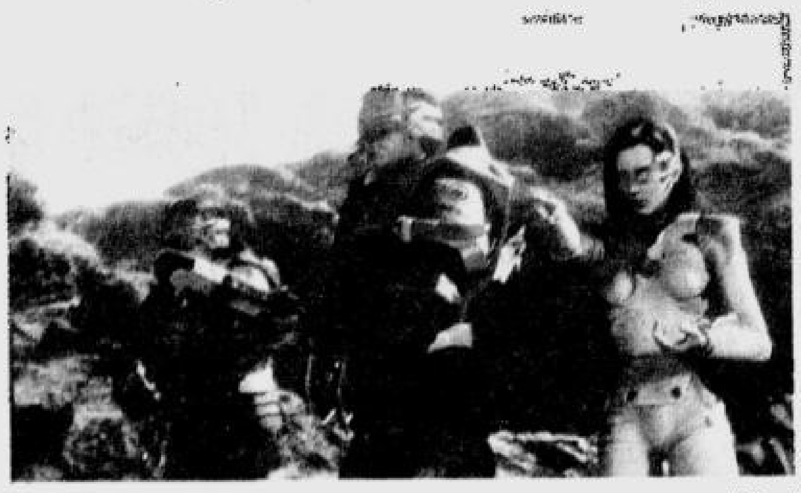
Prepare to be spellbound by an extraordinary woman, the brave individuals at her side, and an astounding mission to save the Earth.

Infected by an alien spirit, Aki holds the key to discovering the secret to defeating the alien creatures, but her quest is challenged by the militant opposition of General Hein (voiced by James Woods), who plots to unleash a massive space cannon that could destroy the enemy—and the earth as well.

As the clock ticks on, Aki searches her nightly dreams to find the answer to the alien mystery while scouring the earth to collect the eight spirits she believes will save the planet. In these dreams, a sadness and desolation is in her eyes as she stares at a wasteland around her. Harsh sunlight narrows her vision. As she stands alone, in clouds of dust on a scarred alien world, her eyes reveal an inner conflict.

Scheming

Fighting both the enemy within and the scheming General Hein, who would destroy the earth in order to save it, Aki valiantly pursues her final fantasy.



HYPER-realistic animation makes digititized characters come "alive" in "Final Fantasy."

'WOW 2001' features contemporary Christian music hits

By Jocelyn Valle

IGNORE the album design of "WOW 2001" and you'll still know that it's not your usual compilation recording. While listening to the double CD (containing 30 songs plus three bonus tracks) you'll hear no profanities, sexual innuendos, prejudiced views or twisted thoughts.

Message

At the heart of the familiar melodies of pop, soul, country, R&B, funk, rock, alternative-rock and dance music is the message of faith in Jesus Christ. "WOW 2001," which is locally distributed by Praise Music, features some of the finest examples of contemporary Christian music.

The musical genre's origins date back to the late '60s and flourished through the spirituality-conscious '70s. By the '80s, established mainstream performers began moving into Christian territory as Christian artists started being recognized by the general market. Today it's become both a ministry and a multimillion-dollar business. (And the subject of a lot of debates, too.)

The first track in the album, "Dive," for instance, was inspired by the pastor-friend of singer-songwriter Stephen Curtis Chapman. "One sermon gave an example of a fishing story where he was out with a friend standing chest-deep in a stream catching hundreds of trout everywhere they cast their rods," says the man best known for the ballad, "I Will Be Here," which Gary Valenciano revives in his latest album.

Amazed

"From the shore, onlookers were amazed because none of them had caught any fish. That experience is so much like what it is to follow Jesus Christ. If we're really going to do it, we've got to really dive in deep to lose ourselves in the flow of the living water. All of those emotions and experiences of excitement, risk and anticipation are what I wanted to capture in this song."

Rachel Lampa, on the other hand, shares that her song, "Live For You," explains how all lives should be lived. "Jesus Christ gave His life so that we could live," she points out.

"And even though He died, He is still present and working in our lives. He has found His way into our hearts and willingly counsels us through our trials. I have personally found out that it does take sacrifices.

"But I am willing to try to live for Him for the rest of my life. It's the least I can do when I think of all He has done for me."

For Jaci Velasquez, "Crystal Clear" is her personal love song to Jesus. "It reflects His perfect love for me, and how that love brings clarity to the mysteries in life," she intones.

"I can't imagine life without Him. The mystery has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but it is now disclosed to the saints. To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of Glory." (Colossians 1:26-27)

Memorial service

"Every Season" is very special for Nichole Nordeman, especially when she sang it for the first time at a friend's memorial service. "I was having a great deal of trouble reconciling the loss of his life and finding God—His presence—in the midst of it all," she recalls.

"I realized that it is far easier to believe in a God of spring than of winter. God is always present despite my circumstances and the seasons that feel the most chilly are most likely preparing me for the growth that comes with a new beginning."

"Red Letters," admit dc Talk's Kevin Max, Michael Tait and Toby McKeehan, is one of those songs that they were a little intimidated by. "Because we're talking about the words of Jesus Christ," they explain.

"There was a healthy fear of God that went on during the writing of the song. Nobody wanted to be wholly responsible, so we all added a little at a time. We wanted to face it in a holy, respectable manner. To take the words of Christ, a tribute to His word, was a thrill and quite a task. If someone asked us what to read in the Bible, we'd say 'read the red letters' because those are the words of Jesus."

Jars of Clay's "Unforgetful You" is the most popular selection in "WOW 2001." It's been played both in mainstream and Christian radio stations. Most listeners may not know it, but the engaging tune is about the band's realization of the difference between God and man.

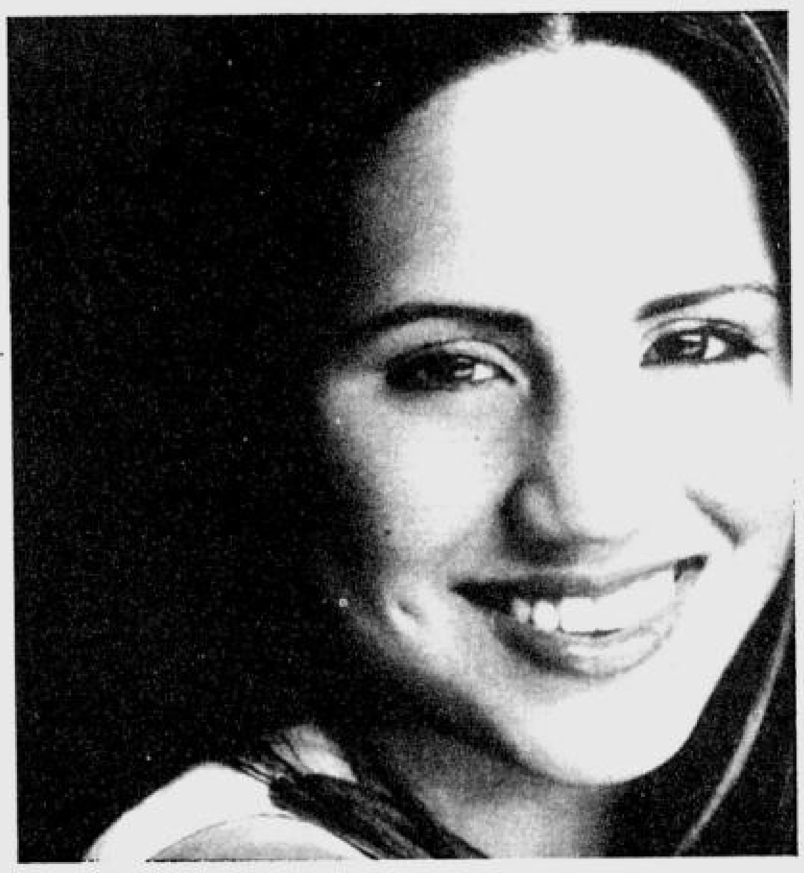
Strength and mercy

"The ways God makes His strength and mercy known are most often through our awareness of our own mortality and human condition," elucidates band member Dan Haseltine.

Stacie Orrico sounds a lot like other teen pop singers except that she's wholesome and sensible. Explaining "Don't Look At Me," which she co-wrote, she shows us why.

"The song's subject really hit me," she smiles. "Because it talked about people, especially teens, who wanted idols or heroes to look up to. I wanted to get the message across to them. No, don't look at me because if you're looking solely at me, then you are not going to see all you need to see Jesus through me."

The rest of the album follows the same direction. You just won't feel it because each track's beat is infectious and the album caters to different musical types.



LAMPA. Her song in the musical compilation is titled "Live For You."

'Flames,' 'G-Mik' or 'Tabing-Ilog?'

By Kathleen Angeli Torre

MORE TV shows are being produced for teenage viewers these days. Which ones click the most with their intended audience? Let's listen to some teen viewers as they speak for themselves:

"Tabing-Ilog.' It has such nice twists to its story at the appropriate times—when you least expect such things to happen. The twists work because I never get bored. You anticipate what's going to happen next, so it makes you reluctant to surf through the other channels.

"In 'Tabing-Ilog,' you see how the youth get into trouble. I can relate with the characters because I sometimes see things that I or my friends have done before.

In the case of 'G-Mik,' I just can't help but notice that they rarely have dialogue that doesn't start with "*Alam mo kasi, ganito yun.*" I sometimes get irritated listening to it."—***Angelica Heruela, 13***

Natural

"I like 'Tabing-Ilog' best. The characters in 'G-Mik' and 'Flames' are sometimes so immature, and all they do is try hard to be cute. But 'Tabing-Ilog' is natural and fresh and the characters are quite believable.

"The situations and problems are just right for the ages of the characters even if they never seem to run out of problems. You get to see what happens in college. You can appreciate the show because it runs longer. So even if the commercials take up so much time, *hindi ka nabibitin ng sobra*. In the other shows, they have such short stories that nothing much happens."—***Reneeliza Jean Melgar, 15***

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CAST of "Tabing-Ilog."

HBO invades . . .

(From page E1)

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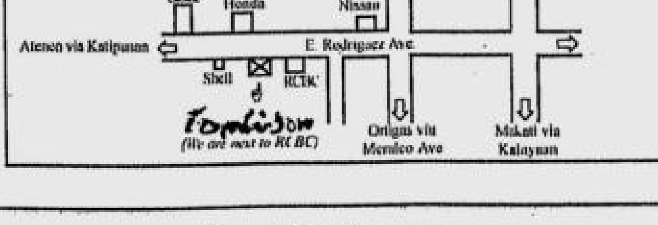

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DUNST. A singing role.

Comic look at first love

A MIRAMAX Films release, "Get Over It" is directed by Tommy O'Haver, who made his directorial debut with the critically acclaimed "Billy's Hollywood Screen Kiss." Paul Feldsher, Marc Butan and Michael Burns produce, Louise Rosner serves as co-producer.

Screenplay

The screenplay is written by R. Lee Fleming Jr. Robin Standefer is the production designer, Maryse Alberti serves as the cinematographer, Mary Jane Fort is the costume designer and Jeff Betancourt is the editor.

It was 10 years ago when screenwriter R. Lee Fleming Jr., still in college, had the idea for "Get Over It," a comic exploration of first love. Fleming moved to Los Angeles four years later, where his script for "Get Over It" suitably impressed Tapestry Films.

They then hired him to write "She's All That," his first produced screenplay, which starred Freddie Prinze Jr. and Rachel Leigh Cook, and was distributed by Miramax Films.

When "She's All That' became a box office success, Fleming's earlier script for "Get Over It" attracted increasing attention. Michael Burns and Marc Butan at Ignite Films had already optioned the story when Miramax expressed interest in acquiring the project. Fleming's script then undertook an exciting new development when Miramax came on board.

Big meeting

"We had a big meeting at Miramax when (co-chairman) Harvey Weinstein came up with the idea of incorporating Shakespeare into the script," recalls Fleming.

After researching Shakespeare's works, Fleming found that "A Midsummer Night's Dream," with its themes of young, unrequited love, was an ideal match for his original story.

Not long after, Miramax's Harvey Weinstein saw a film by young director Tommy O'Haver, "Billy's Hollywood Screen Kiss" at the Sundance Film Festival; O'Haver, Weinstein was convinced, was the right person to direct "Get Over It."

Even though they found their work styles to be very different, screenwriter Fleming and O'Haver found they worked together well. "Tommy is my age and we can relate to each other as peers," says Fleming. "We came to the project from completely different angles, and we have different senses of humor. Something really good came out of those differences."

Until he read the script, O'Haver had been wary of doing a teen movie. "The thing that attracted me was the play. That really set it apart from other teen films."

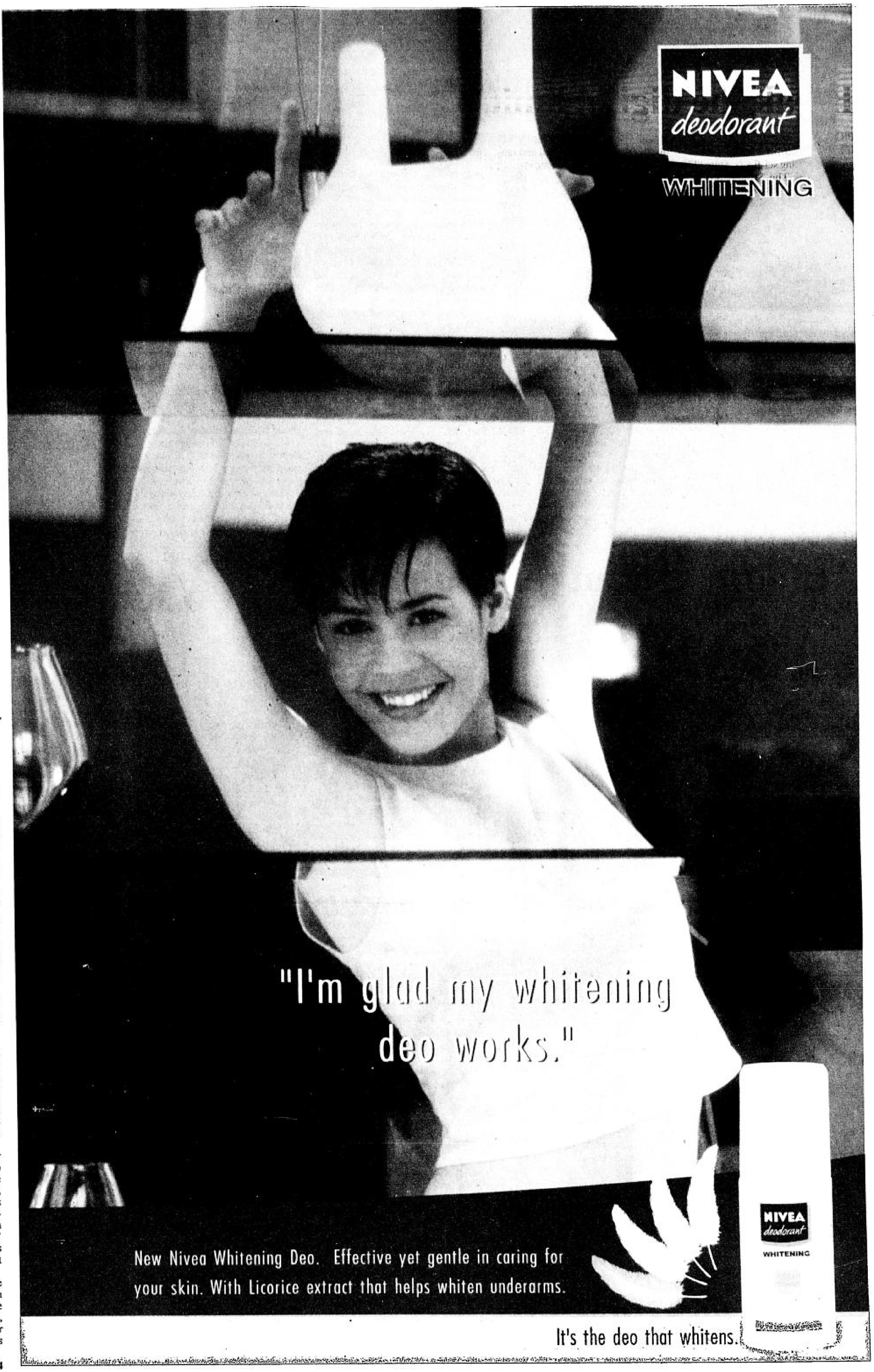
Amazed

"I particularly liked the fact that the production was 'A Midsummer Night's Dream,' because that was the first Shakespearean play I saw as a kid," recalls O'Haver. 'I was so amazed that a play written so many years ago could actually entertain me, a fifth grader in Indiana. I'd always wanted to do that play as a film. So then the script came with all these elements it seemed to scream out to me, 'Hey this is your fate. You've got to do this film.'"

With O'Haver on board, producer Paul Feldsher and co-producer Louise Rosner were brought in to oversee the production and assemble the rest of the creative team. Award-winning cinematographer, Maryse Alberti, who had photographed such films as "Velvet Goldmine," "Happiness" and "Paris is Burning" was hired, along with production designer Robin Standefer who recently worked on Kasi Lemmons' "The Caveman's Valentine." Mary Jane Fort was brought in to create the costumes, and Jeff Betancourt came in to edit the film.

The filmmakers were able to cast the film with some of Hollywood's most exciting young talent, both from film and television, as well as with some of film's more established actors. For the central role of Berke Landers, a guy who can't get over losing his girlfriend, O'Haver chose newcomer Ben Foster, who had received raves for his role in Barry Levinson's "Liberty Heights."

GET/P. E4



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WOULD U DARE PINCH
THAT STRANGER NEXT TO YOU?

Chavit Singson, birthday boy

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

ON the occasion of Manong Chavit Singson's nth birthday (actually on June 21), he was surprised with an advance birthday celebration on June 18.

Party planner

The party planners, led by lovely Rachel or "Che" with whom *Manong* Chavit has six children, convinced him to agree to a very private dinner just for the two of them. "But what about our friends?" Chavit asked.

Well, Che said, Chavit could have a big celebration with a guest list estimated at 20,000 people, that his friends and family were sure to throw for him back home in Vigan.

Chavit agreed to a candlelit dinner at Pravda Bar and Restaurant (formerly Beluga Bar). So, the party planners started working on the invitations and asked people to come as early as 6:30 p.m.

However, Che was stressed when Chavit took his time getting ready and was even having second thoughts about the dinner. Guests were hidden in the fine-dining portion separated by a red curtain from the bar. It was dark. When Chavit finally arrived, it had started to drizzle. Not noticing the cars that were lined up outside, he asked, "Why is it so dark? Why are there no people here?"

Red curtain

The moment Chavit passed through that red curtain, the party planners turned on the lights, the band of Nonoy Lopez started to play, and everybody sang happy birthday. Chavit's children presented him with cakes, candles lighted, and a photocake.

He blew the candles out, still unbelieving.

Dancing queen Becky Garcia started the fun dancing that lasted before midnight. Those who came early were Jojo Zabarte, Atty. Katrina Legarda, Frannie and Ramon Jacinto, Vivian Velez with hubby Tuvie and son, Johnny Litton, Becky Garcia and Henri Muzzarelli, Tina and Serge Valencia, Maritess Revilla and Ed Marcelo, Lani Aquino, Lito Zaragoza, Marilou Senn, Eva de Koenigswarter, Christine Roxas and lawyer Toto Ferrer, and Chavit's close pals Henry Zabarte, Architect Jun Gallego, and Bob Dors. Missing was Louie Senn, who was in Paris for an air show.

Drinks flowed, the menu was well chosen and Chavit had the time of his life. There was spicy and very tender salpicao, grilled assorted mushrooms with greens, fettucine carbonara, grilled beluga salmon in red wine sauce with fantastic mango crepe and cheesecake, all washed down with a satisfying Woodbridge Cabernet Sauvignon.

Doting father

It was a rewarding sight to see a very affectionate Chavit with his children—after all it was close to Father's Day. He helped rewrite Philippine's political history, but with his children that night, Chavit was a doting, loving father. Everyone danced, including Chavit and Che and their children.

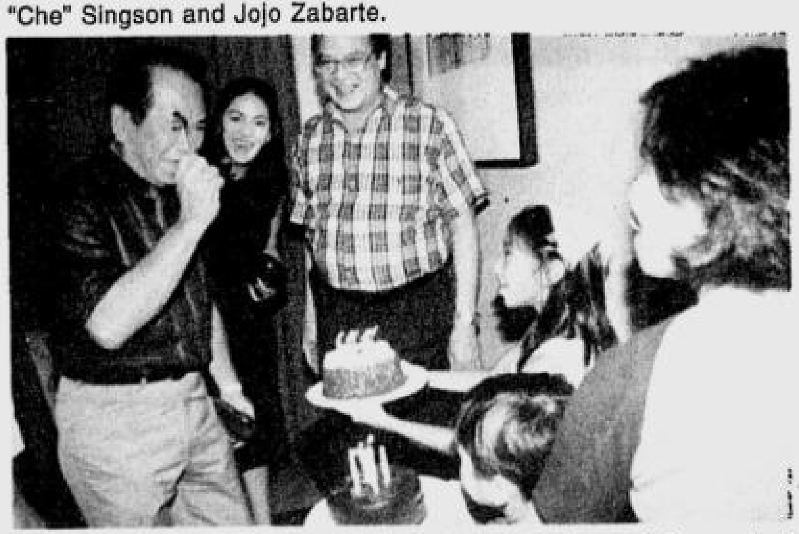
Pravda Bar and Restaurant is close to my heart because it's owned by a dear friend, Tita Meneses-Trillo (from our flying days). I conduct photography lectures with dinner at the Cellar. It was also here that I photographed my photo students with former President Erap.

It was unforgettable because Tita Trillo treated us to a sweet bottle of wine and I became tipsy. So I told the President, "When I am tipsy, I cannot focus." My students were happy to get copies of those pictures but after the impeachment trial, they kept the pictures away.

This weekend, Chavit will have his youngest baby Caitlin baptized (born Sept. 29 last year). The baptism was set aside because of the turmoil of the past year.

CHAVIT Singson with his young son, Christian.

CHAVIT with, from left, Katrina Legarda, Vivian Velez, wife Rachel "Che" Singson and Jojo Zabarte.



CHRISTIAN and Chelsea present the birthday cake to their surprised dad. Looking on are his wife Che and Henry Zabarte.

Anthony Quinn remembered

By Nestor U. Torre

WHEN Anthony Quinn passed away at age 86 earlier this month, young movie fans were surprised at the big way with which the media played up his demise. Why the huge fuss and bother, when he was "just" a character actor who hadn't made a movie in years?

Major film talent

Older film buffs, however, are quick to point out that Quinn was a major film talent who appeared in some of the most significant films made from the 1950s onwards.

He is best remembered for his textured portrayals in "Zorba the Greek," "Lawrence of Arabia," "Viva Zapata!," "Lust for Life," "The Guns of Navarone," "The Hunchback of Notre Dame" and "La Strada."

For many years, "La Strada" was our favorite film. In it, Quinn played a brutish strongman who took a simple-minded waif (Giolietta Masina) with him as he toured the countryside, where he encountered a gentle acrobat (Richard Basehart). The artistic movie directed by *the* Federico Fellini won the 1954 Oscar for Best Foreign Film.

Quinn was at the peak of his powers when he played the title role in "Zorba the Greek" (1964). Critics praised Quinn for his "zesty" performance in the film directed by Michael Cacoyannis.

Perfect

Even in supporting roles, Quinn had a strong impact on viewers. A reviewer cited Quinn for his "well-deserved" Oscar for his performance as painter Paul Gauguin, and a review of "Viva Zapata!" notes, "Marlon Brando is perfect in the title role, and Anthony Quinn is equally fine in his Oscar-winning performance as his brother."

In our view, apart from his proven talent and love for artistic creativity (he became a visual artist of note in the last decades of his life), Quinn's major contribution was his having paved the way for other "minority" film artists to make it in Hollywood.

QUINN. Even in supporting roles, he had a strong impact on viewers.

As one of the pioneers along these lines, Quinn suffered a lot, but he made things easier for others because he was able to prove with his textured and impassioned portrayals that some minority talents could come up with performances that were stronger and more authentic than those turned in by Hollywood's "paleface," WASP actors.

Retrospective

Recently on CNN, Larry King mounted an hour-long retrospective and tribute to Anthony Quinn by showing excerpts of some of the interviews he had done with the actor through the years.

In 1994, Quinn talked about his children, including the youngest ones by his new wife Kathy. "This is the happiest period in my life," he exclaimed. "I never knew life could be this good!"

How did it feel, being a new dad again at age 81? "I want to be there forever for all of my children," he said. "I know that can't be, but while I'm still here, I will try to be the very best for them!"

Looking back on the highlights of his colorful life, Quinn recalled that he loved painting ever since he was a kid. For instance, he was only six years old when he drew a portrait of Douglas Fairbanks, and sold the sketch to the famous actor for $25!

Gifted artist

Quinn believed that his fame as a gifted artist would outlast his popularity as a film star. "Actors are forgotten after a while, but painters leave their mark," he mused. "Who remembers 'Zorba'? Movies fade, but fine art lasts for centuries."

He also regaled viewers with a wonderful story about Marlon Brando, his friend ever since they made "Viva Zapata!" in the '50s.

Years later, he narrated, he invited Brando to his home to convince him to appear with him in a movie, but Brando nixed the idea, saying ruefully that no producer wanted to get him.

While they were talking, Brando idly leafed through the script of another movie that was lying on the table. It turned out that Quinn had decided to turn down a major role in the film that had been offered to him.

Patriarch

Months later, Quinn heard that Brando was going to play the old Mafia patriarch Don Corleone. Ironically, this was the same role that Quinn had turned down, and the script for "The Godfather" was the one that Brando was leafing through in Quinn's house.

So, it turned out that, even as he said he was finished as a film actor, Brando was contradicting himself by looking for a great role to do—and he had found it in the script lying on Quinn's table!

Other actors would have resented Brando's "duplicity," but Quinn just laughed it off. After all, he had made more than enough films (around 100 in the course of his career) to prove that he was an actor for all seasons—and reasons.

US scriptwriters clinch landmark deal

By Ramon Rey E. Bayron

AMERICAN Film/TV writers recently got $41M in a landmark deal with networks and producers.

"WGA'S goal prior to entering in the negotiations was clear, to secure a contract that would achieve increased respect for writers by successfully addressing their major economic and creative issues," said Michael Mahern, co-chair of the writers' guild's Negotiating Committee.

Powerful

And achieve respect they did as the powerful WGA (Writers' Guild of America) brokered an unprecedented contract with the cash-rich Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers (AMPTP), ABC, CBS and NBC that gives cash and creative privileges to its 11,000 strong film and television writer-members.

Highlights of its groundbreaking deal include the following (local scriptwriters, take note):

a. A 3.5 percent increase in the initial compensation minimums for screenplays and teleplays in each year of the contract, or an additional $29 M for writers.

b. A mandatory script publication fee of $5,000 for the screenwriter upon distribution of the movie in DVD and VCD format.

c. Unlimited foreign residuals. No buy-out. Foreign residuals will be paid to the writers for as long as the movie is showing or airing overseas. Writers will receive 1.2 percent of foreign revenue after these sums reach specified thresholds. This is the first time that producers agreed to this compensation since 1970.

d. Residuals for Made-For-Basic-Cable programs (such as the Lifetime series "Any Day Now" and Disney Channel Movies) increased by 20 percent, for an estimated increase of $850,000 during this contract term alone.

e. Residuals payments to writers increase from under $300,000 per year to almost $4 M per year for Made-For-Pay-TV ("The Sopranos" and "Sex and the City" on HBO and "Soul Food" on Showtime).

Evolving markets

f. Writers will receive 1.2 percent of the exhibitors' payments for the right to exhibit movies and TV programs that viewers may watch for a fixed number of times or over evolving markets for all other types of exhibition over the Internet, such as when the viewer can download a movie or TV program for unlimited viewing.

g. For the first time, writers for the Internet will be considered employed, on a project-by-project basis, and will enjoy guaranteed pension and health benefits. Writers whose work first appears on the Internet will also be eligible for separate rights if their material is later used as the basis for a television series or motion picture.

The total economic package is a whopping $41 million for writers over the three-year term of the contract.

For this, critics (producers) say that the screenwriters have turned greedy, which WGA-member John Furia sharply counters in his article published at the WGA website: "What they obtain from us too cheaply, they esteem too lightly... Should we tolerate paying screenwriters disproportionate amounts compared to the millions paid to directors, producers, stars, and executives, none of whom would have anything to do unless a writer first creates a screenplay for them?" Paging the SGP.

Justification

In addition, John Wells, WGA President, effectively points out not just the justification but the need for such a package in his column at the same site:

"We believe our proposals are reasonable and fair. The economic security of artists in this industry is as fundamental to the health of our economy as is the assurance of uninterrupted production schedules.

"This is an industry of high unemployment, long periods between assignments and, for most, short careers. Artist must rely on their residuals to support their families, keep their homes and keep their kids in college." *(To be concluded)*

Comic look at first love

(From page E3)

Comic timing

"We saw Ben in 'Liberty Heights' and he was amazing," says director Tommy O'Haver. "He just had this great comic timing and I immediately saw him playing the part of Berke. We were really lucky to get him."

For the actor, the script for "Get Over It" was a departure from most youth-oriented comedies. "It wasn't like normal teen scripts," Foster explains. "It has this really light, happy, idealistic surface and underneath there's a dark thread which attracted me to the film."

After Berke's heart has been broken, his once-ideal world goes awry. "I like the idea of the sane, happy, all-American boy going slightly bonkers," says Foster.

Intent on winning back his lost love, Berke goes so far as to take a role in the school play because she and her dramatically inclined new boyfriend are the leads.

"Berke follows in a desperate attempt to show that he has eclectic taste, and he's not just your average guy," Foster explains. "It's a sad attempt, but nevertheless, he commits, puts on those tights, and tries to recite Shakespeare, and sing and dance."

Secret crush

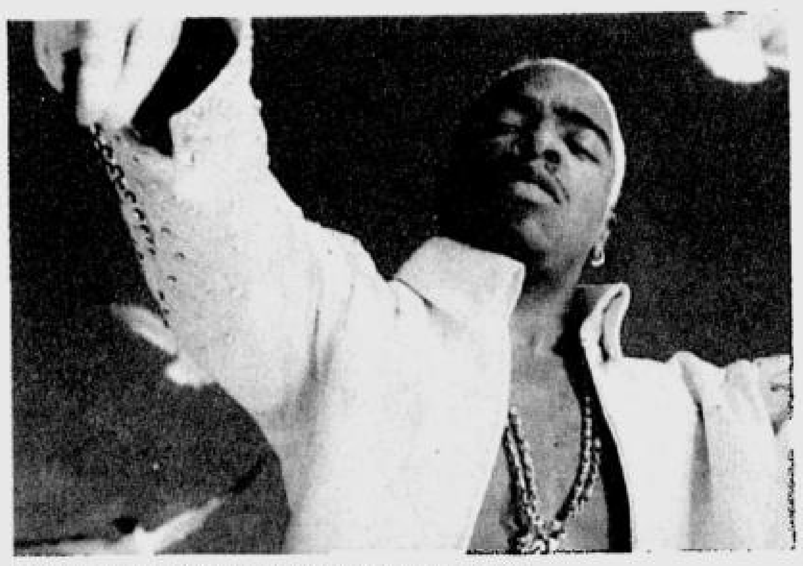
To portray Kelly, a friend who helps Berke with his role in the school play, the filmmakers cast Kirsten Dunst, who starred in "The Virgin Suicides," and "Bring It On," among other films. The younger sister of one of Berke's best friends, Kelly harbors a secret crush on Berke, while he thinks of her merely as his pal's kid sister.

Having recently graduated from high school and still a teenager herself, Dunst was familiar with the fears and doubts that come with the territory.

"One of the reasons that I was interested in playing the part of Kelly was that I could relate to Kelly's situation: falling for the guy who's your friend who wants his ex-girlfriend back, and you're supporting him but your heart is breaking. I've been there and done that, so I could relate to Kelly and what she was going through."

Dunst was immediately drawn to the idea of doing a romantic comedy. "Romantic comedies are movies that everyone loves to see," she says. "I think this one definitely reaches out to an audience that doesn't usually have many romantic comedies geared to them."

"Kirsten was attracted to the role of Kelly because she got to sing," adds director O'Haver "Kirsten is a girl who knows how to have fun while she's working and that is important when working on a comedy."



SISQO. "Get Over It" is his first feature film.

Singing

"When I read the script I was thrilled to learn that the character got to sing. It was what made me want to do the part. I love singing to the radio and it is always fun to get to try new things for different films," explains Dunst.

Foster was impressed by his costar. "Kirsten's one of the few young actresses around today who commits to what she does," he tells it. "She's a pro. It's not hard falling in love with Kirsten."

Hip hop artist Sisqò, who burst into the public consciousness when his hit "Thong Song' quickly climbed the charts, was approached next for the role of Dennis, one of Berke's best friends.

"Get Over It" is his feature film debut and he now is going into production on the film "Winter Dance" co-starring Cuba Gooding Jr. Sisqò had just finished performing on "Saturday Night Live" when O'Haver met with him for the part of Dennis.

While the musician had been inundated with scripts since appearing with Will Smith in the music video for the feature film, "Wild, Wild West," Sisqò took the challenge of an acting role seriously.

Delicate process

"I know that it's a delicate process being a recording artist going into the acting field, so I started to study different types of actors, from Jim Carrey to Jamie Foxx, trying to figure out the best way to approach it," he says.

"This film is great for me because I'm not the star and I get to kiss somebody in the movie.'

O'Haver predicts that Sisqò is destined for a great career in the movies. "I think he could definitely be the next 'Fresh Prince,'" says the director. "He's funny."

For Sisqò, the role of Dennis was not that far removed from his own personality.

"Dennis may not be as cool, or as good with the ladies as Sisqò is, but Sisqò can't play basketball, and Dennis is pretty good at that. He appears to be a good friend, and a pretty good dancer."

Sisqò credits Ben Foster and Colin Hanks, who was cast to play Felix, Berke's friend and Kelly's brother, with making him comfortable on his first movie set. "When I stepped on the set Colin and Ben took me under their wing," says Sisqò.

"They gave me a feeling that there's no need to be afraid, we're going to coach you through, we want you to look good, just relax. Whenever I'm looking like an artist playing actor, I can always look forward to Ben and Colin, shaking me up to make sure that I'm playing Dennis instead of Sisqò on screen."

Colin Hanks, who stars in WB's popular series "Roswell" and will soon star with his father Tom Hanks in the comedy "Orange County," found the character of Felix gave him the chance to reveal another aspect of his considerable talent.

"Felix is a nice change from everything else that I've been doing," says the actor. "For me it was the chance to be able to be the wild guy. And I don't really think Felix is all that popular, but he thinks he is."

While Felix goes all out to help his friend Berke get over his heartbreak by throwing parties and introducing Berke to new girls, he is less than successful. "In a lot of cases, he makes Berke's life a lot worse," says Hanks.

Felix also has a difficult time relating to his sister Kelly. "They're both very close in age, so of course they do not get along," continues the actor.

"Ultimately Felix is really trying to protect Kelly. He thinks that he is doing a good thing, but he's just being a pain in Kelly's side and makes her life a little bit more difficult."

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Duchovny drops stoic act—and his pants—for alien comedy

By David Germain

LOS ANGELES—David Duchovny is still fighting aliens in his new movie "Evolution," but he's a far cry from the droll, subdued Fox Mulder on "The X-Files."

Would the alien-obsessed Mulder grab his crotch to mock government agents studying visitors from outer space? Would Mulder drop his drawers and moon the feds through the windshield of a Jeep?

Prospect

While Duchovny initially was not thrilled at the prospect of a flick about extraterrestrials, he decided the outrageous tone of "Evolution" was a good departure from "The X-Files," the series he recently left last month after eight seasons.

The fact that "Evolution" was directed by "Ghostbusters" creator Ivan Reitman didn't hurt, either.

"When I read the script and realized it was about aliens, my first response was, you know, a sinking feeling," Duchovny said in an interview at a health-food restaurant where he is a regular. "I thought, I want to work with Ivan, I want to do a comedy, but does it have to be about aliens?

Coincidence

"After reading it, I realized it really didn't have anything to do with the kind of work I'd been doing the last eight years. It's a coincidence that it's aliens. If I could draw it up on the blackboard how I want the first movie after 'The X-Files' to be, I wouldn't particularly say aliens. But that's the way it happened."

In "Evolution," Duchovny plays biology teacher Ira Kane, who battles alien spores that develop at lightning pace, quickly evolving into lifeforms that threaten humanity. Julianne Moore, Orlando Jones and Seann William Scott co-star as members of Ira's brilliantly bumbling band of alien fighters.

Though "The X-Files" often strayed into comedy, it was dark and creepy humor that's nothing like the zaniness of Duchovny's new movie. "Evolution" features goofy creatures, slapstick and some gross-out humor.

The crotch-grabbing and mooning were unscripted additions Duchovny tossed in as Ira storms away from Army brass that takes over the alien landing site.

"About the second or third take of his doing his exit, I suddenly looked up as I was watching the monitor, and I was saying, 'Gee, did he just drop his pants?'" Reitman said. "I went up to him and said, 'Are you serious, or is this for the outtake reel?'"

Duchovny was serious, and Reitman encouraged him to moon the Army leaders with a little more gusto on subsequent takes.

Reitman—who produced "Beethoven," in which Duchovny co-starred—said he felt the actor had comedic talent beyond Mulder's dry sense of humor.

Witty

"Here's this really witty, funny guy who also happens to be very handsome," Reitman said. "I thought he had the chops to be a movie comedy star, but he'd never had the opportunity to present much of that."

Duchovny's evolution from stoic FBI man to madcap alien hunter mirrors the development of "Evolution" itself. The script first came to Reitman as a straight science fiction thriller.

Working with original screenwriter Don Jakoby and two other writers, Reitman retooled "Evolution" into a comedy.

Had the film remained a drama, Duchovny might have been a liability, because "with him associated with that kind of role, it could have been easy for it to slip over into just a giant version of 'The X-Files,'" Jakoby said.

"Now, the problem in selling it is for audiences to make the disconnect. Yes, it is David Duchovny, but it's not Duchovny as you normally have seen him," Jakoby said. "You have to get across that what we're doing is Duchovny-plus."

Duchovny, 40, got a late start in acting, taking it up when he was pursuing a doctorate in literature at Yale. He scrapped plans to become a teacher and writer and came to Hollywood in the late 1980s.

Bigger roles

Bit parts in films such as "Working Girl" led to bigger roles in "Chaplin" and "Beethoven." On TV, Duchovny had a recurring role as a cross-dressing FBI agent in "Twin Peaks," was narrator for Showtime's "Red Shoe Diaries" and played himself in several episodes of his friend Garry Shandling's "The Larry Sanders Show."

In 1993, Duchovny signed on for "The X-Files" figuring it easily could be a short-lived gig. Instead, the series grew from cult show to critically acclaimed hit, expanding to a film franchise in 1998.

"You never really think that something is going to last more than a season," Duchovny said. "You never think something's going to become a cultural phenomenon. Then the next thing you know, people are asking if you're worried about being typecast for a show you never thought would be around so long. Everything just snowballs. I saw it as just a job back in the spring of 1993, and from there it kind of took control of me."

"The X-Files" movie has been Duchovny's one big film hit, though he had a modest success with last year's romantic comedy "Return to Me."

Duchovny considered departing "The X-Files" a year ago. He came back for about half the past season's episodes after settling a lawsuit with the Fox network over the show's profits. *AP*

DUCHOVNY'S new movie features goofy creatures, slapstick and some gross-out humor.

Ishmael Bernal, way back when

By Nestor U. Torre

(Continuation)

BEFORE he made movies, we had gotten Ishmael to write for the Entertainment Guide magazine which we were editing. We became good friends, and I was thoroughly entertained—and slightly intimidated—by his witty repartee and occasionally bitchy tongue.

Excerpts

Once, I found myself at the receiving end of his arch snittiness. He'd heard that Baby Barredo sometimes got me to do musical-theater excerpts with her on her TV show, and insisted that I invite him to one of our taping sessions. He was so excited at the taping and was very attentive as Baby and I did our scene and sang our song (I believe it was "Surrey with the Fringe on Top").

After the taping, as we left the studio, I waited for Bernie's verdict on my performance. It finally came, complete with arched eyebrow and thin, pitying smile: "A star was *not* born!"

Scorn

Ouch, that hurt. Somehow, though, I felt I had arrived. Bernie reserved his scorn for specially prized targets, and I felt that the sting of his succinct, one-line put-down was alleviated by the fact that it had placed me in the august, albeit bruised company of some of the most esteemed talents on the artistic and show biz scene.

Back to Bernie and the movies: Contrary to what is written in his National Artist CV, his first film was *not* "Pagdating sa Dulo," but a long-forgotten production breezily titled, "A, Ewan, Basta sa Maynila Pa Rin Ako!"

Traffic jams

Most people don't even know about this movie because Ishmael finished shooting only half of it. The film was his generally fond but occasionally acerbic "tribute" to the city of Manila, with all of its garbage, traffic jams, political fat cats, opportunists, shysters—as well as its more positive attributes.

At first, Ishmael's relationship with the satirical film's producer was blithe and breezy, and shooting proceeded swimmingly. Later, however, the producer feared that the local movie audience wouldn't be able to relate to the its mod, cheeky style, or follow its nonchronological way of telling its story.

Bickering

So, after some bickering, the producer decided to direct the rest of the film himself, leaving Ishmael to rue the unfortunate outcome of what would have been his first feature film.

We saw the movie when it was finally screened, and we could tell which scenes had been shot by Ishmael, and which were megged by the producer. The difference was one of attitude, tone, style and pacing.

Ishmael's sequences were arch, flip, fast and irreverent—just like Ishmael himself—while the producer's scenes were standard and "logical," but without the witty zaniness of Ishmael's original conceptualization.

Vehicles

One of Ishmael's images in that early movie remains in our memory, three decades after we first saw the film: The sequence is about one of Manila's interminable traffic jams, and the movie's hero is trapped in a car surrounded by a veritable sea of other vehicles, their engines idling testily away.

From time to time, an ambulant vendor passes by our hero's car, trying to sell him something. At first, the objects are small. Later however, vendors are hawking huge pieces of furniture, a refrigerator, etc! A telling and funny series of improbable images, you'll agree.

Palm tree

In another scene, a passenger has a pot with a small palm seedling. By the time the traffic starts moving again, the plant has grown into a huge palm tree!

The original "A, Ewan..." movie would have made one funny film. Too bad, the producer became insecure about its chances at the tills, and adjusted it to follow more traditional storytelling norms.

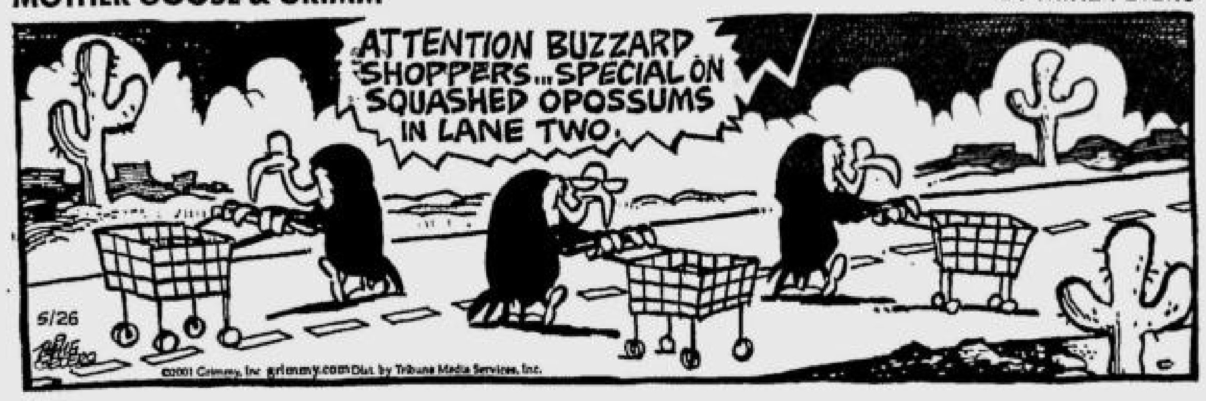
After he left that production, Ishmael felt low. That was when some of his friends who believed in his gift as a filmmaker pooled their resources together and produced what would later "officially" become his first full-length film, "Pagdating sa Dulo." *(To be continued)*

at the Infants' Wear Department
SINCE 1950 SNOOPY
Adjustable shoulder straps
Standing ten feet tall in Snoopy denims
Left and right metal buttons
Whimsical Snoopy embroidery at back
We've got it all for you!
SM
DEPARTMENT STORE
QUIAPO • MAKATI • CUBAO • HARRISON • NORTH EDSA • STA. MESA • ORTIGAS • LAS PINAS • BACOOR • FAIRVIEW • MANILA • PAMPANGA • ILOILO • CEBU

ON HIS CHEEK?

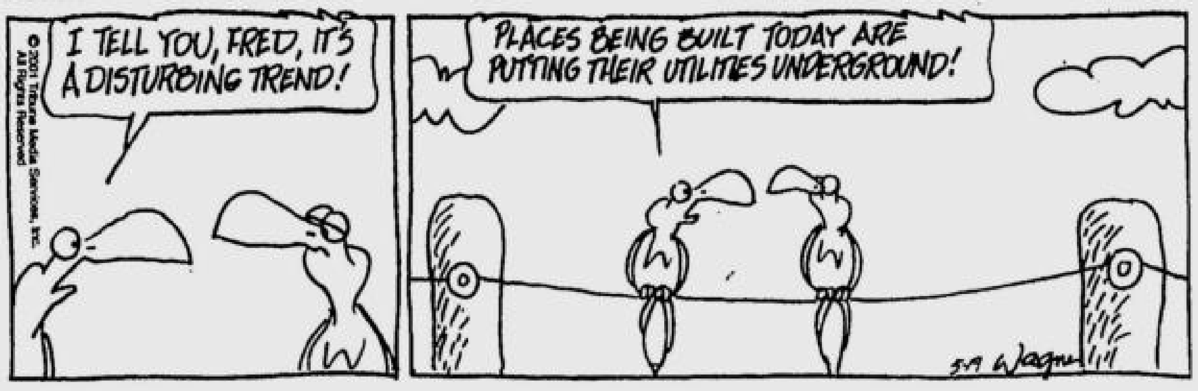
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


ATTENTION BUZZARD SHOPPERS...SPECIAL ON SQUASHED OPOSSUMS IN LANE TWO.
5/26
©2001 Grimmy, Inc grimmy.com Dist. by Tribune Media Services, Inc.

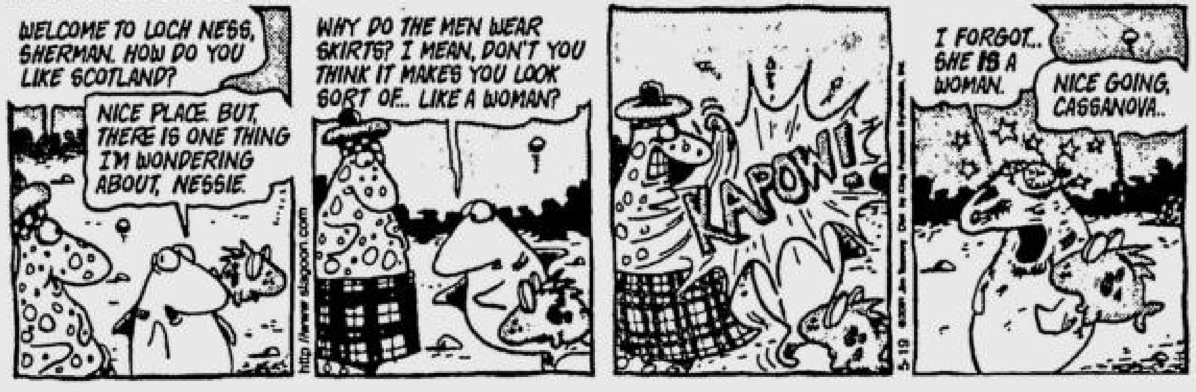
ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


I TELL YOU, FRED, IT'S A DISTURBING TREND!
PLACES BEING BUILT TODAY ARE PUTTING THEIR UTILITIES UNDERGROUND!
© 2001 Tribune Media Services, Inc. All Rights Reserved
5-9 Wagner

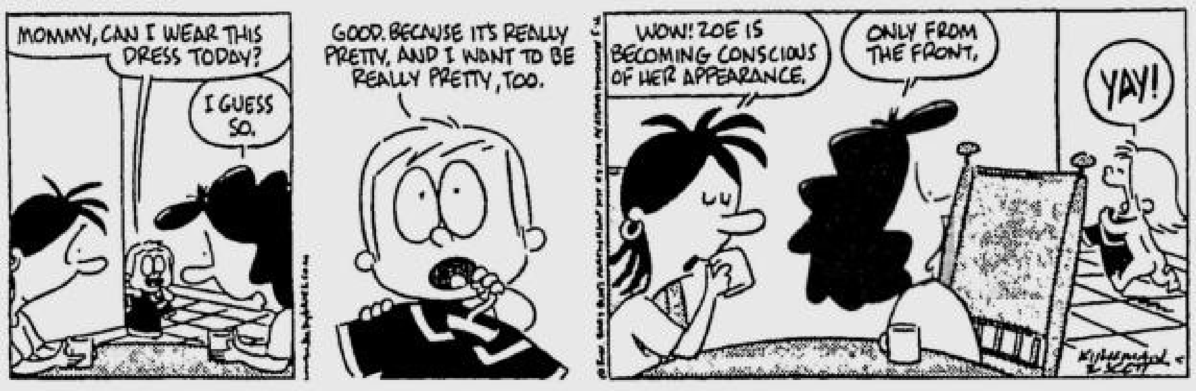
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


WELCOME TO LOCH NESS, SHERMAN. HOW DO YOU LIKE SCOTLAND?
NICE PLACE. BUT, THERE IS ONE THING I'M WONDERING ABOUT, NESSIE.
WHY DO THE MEN WEAR SKIRTS? I MEAN, DON'T YOU THINK IT MAKES YOU LOOK SORT OF... LIKE A WOMAN?
KAPOW!
I FORGOT... SHE IS A WOMAN.
NICE GOING, CASSANOVA..
http://www.slagoon.com
5-19

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


MOMMY, CAN I WEAR THIS DRESS TODAY?
I GUESS SO.
GOOD. BECAUSE IT'S REALLY PRETTY, AND I WANT TO BE REALLY PRETTY, TOO.
WOW! ZOE IS BECOMING CONSCIOUS OF HER APPEARANCE.
ONLY FROM THE FRONT.
YAY!
Kirkman & Scott

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Bob Fosse, Wilma Rudolph, Frances McDormand, Selma Blair, Clarence Thomas

Happy Birthday: You're looking for security and stability in all aspects of your life, which you should be able to achieve if you make a concerted effort to control your emotional reactions. Your do-or-die attitude will help you complete things that are important to you. So get ready to take control of your life and make things happen. Your numbers: 5, 13, 17, 22, 35, 39

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Uncertainties regarding your home and family are evident. Empty promises will be upsetting. Older relatives may try to put unreasonable demands on you, so be prepared to say no.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Some of your acquaintances will be unreliable. Don't be too quick to trust them to help out. If you want things to run smoothly, do them yourself.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Look into interesting financial investments. Your intuition will lead to a real winner. Follow those instincts and you can't lose.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Someone you love will not want to listen or believe what you have to say. Actions speak louder than words in this case. Do whatever is necessary to turn your lover's attitude around.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): A secret affair would cause complications in your life. Try not to get involved in other people's private doings. You can make sound financial investments if you act fast.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You can make a difference if you're willing to reach out and help somebody. Get involved in groups you believe in and meet some interesting individuals. Don't be afraid to tell someone you like how you feel.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Your amiable attitude in groups and organizations will enhance your reputation and bring popularity. Use your intuition when dealing with others.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Family outings should be on your agenda. You can win points with children if you take the time to show interest in their accomplishments and offer great ideas.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You can't lose if you are in the middle of a financial deal today. Real-estate investments and moneymaking opportunities will be successful and fruitful.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't overspend on your mate. Your warm and giving nature has allowed someone you care about to take you for granted. It's time to sit back and let that person show his or her feelings.

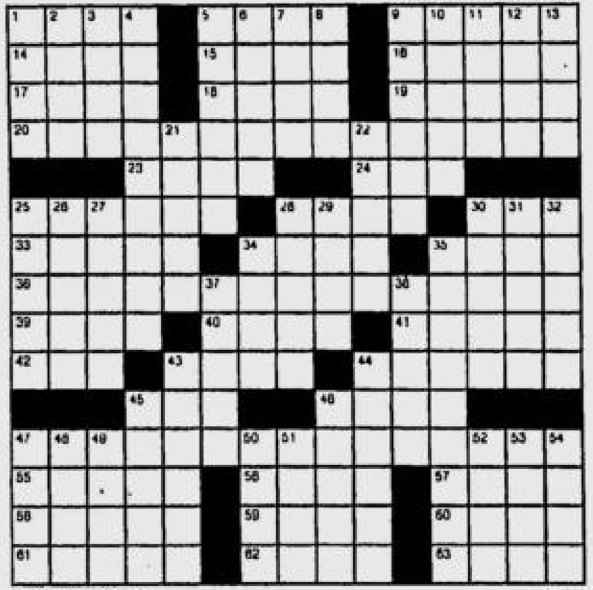
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't let others' criticism get you down. You have your own way of doing things, and it's important to believe in yourself. Develop your creative ideas.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Opportunities for romantic encounters will develop through travel or educational pursuits. Don't overreact to comments made by friends and peers.

Birthday Baby: You like to be in the limelight, especially if it will bring the attention you crave. You have a good memory and will find it easy to get what you want.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Ed Karasek
Barwick, PA

5/8/01

ACROSS
1 Honey follower?
5 Pollution problem
9 Twangy
14 Track shape
15 Stick with a stick
16 Exclusively
17 Lugosi
18 Land of Lake Urmia
19 Getz and Lee
20 Mason's desserts?
23 Joy lead-in
24 Bladed pole
25 Pitchers Martinez and Astacio
28 Aspersion
30 Sample
33 Spaces
34 "Eyes Wide __"
35 Go away!
36 Puzzle inventor's main course?
39 Rotated rapidly
40 Oriel unit
41 Turn up
42 Addams Family cousin
43 Helpful info
44 Informative illustrations
45 Much removed
46 Lure
47 Divisor's drinks?
55 Foretell
56 Touched down
57 Merriment
58 Absurdity
59 "The __ on the Floss"
60 __ of Wight
61 Redacts
62 Sit for the camera
63 Small islands

DOWN
1 Ty of baseball
2 Finished
3 Timbuktu's country
4 Michael Douglas thriller
5 Falls, as from horses
6 Virtuous
7 Give the green light
8 Kelly or Autry
9 Winston Cup circuit
10 Temple table
11 Wet thoroughly
12 Frank or Jackson
13 Fewer
21 Token booth
22 Sales circuit
25 Zoroastrian in India
26 Become violently active
27 Initial showing
28 Switch track
29 Service station job
30 "They Died with __ Boots on"
31 Facetious tribute
32 Oxen ties
34 Leaf through
35 Part of SALT
37 Steeple top
38 Brit's title in India
43 Blackmun and Belafonte
44 Cows and bulls
45 Defect
46 Heats to vaporization
47 Out of danger
48 Part of QED
49 Unsightly fruit?
50 Interstate exit
51 Potpourri
52 Maxwell or Lanchester
53 Count (on)
54 Dates regularly

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

D	A	L	I		T	A	C	T		C	A	P	E	R
A	N	O	N		A	L	O	E		H	A	R	R	Y
S	K	I	N	F	L	I	N	T		A	R	I	S	E
H	A	N		R	E	E	S	E		L	O	V	E	S
			P	E	N	N		A	R	E	N	A		
H	A	M	L	E	T		S	T	E	T		T	A	P
A	L	O	U	D		J	E	E	P	S		E	L	I
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E	L	I	A	S		R	E	R	A	N		C	A	R
R	E	E	V	E		B	R	O	W	N	N	O	S	E
M	A	C	E	S		U	L	A	N		A	L	A	N
A	R	E	N	T		G	E	T	S		G	A	P	E

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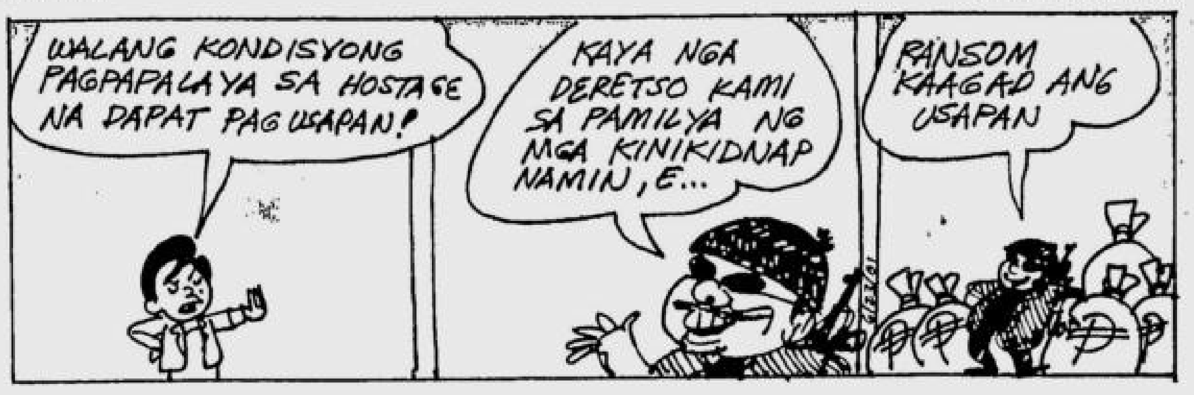
5/8/01

ANSWER ON MONDAY

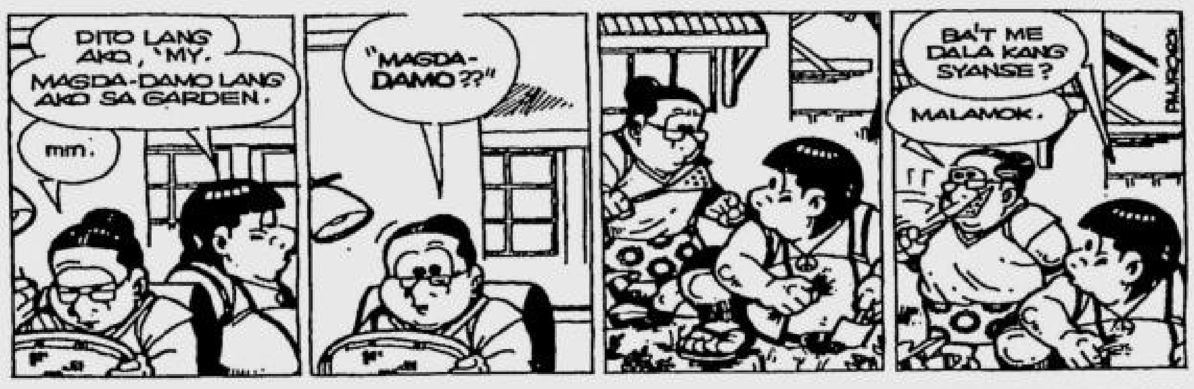
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


WALANG KONDISYONG PAGPAPALAYA SA HOSTAGE NA DAPAT PAG USAPAN!
KAYA NGA DERETSO KAMI SA PAMILYA NG MGA KINIKIDNAP NAMIN, E...
RANSOM KAAGAD ANG USAPAN

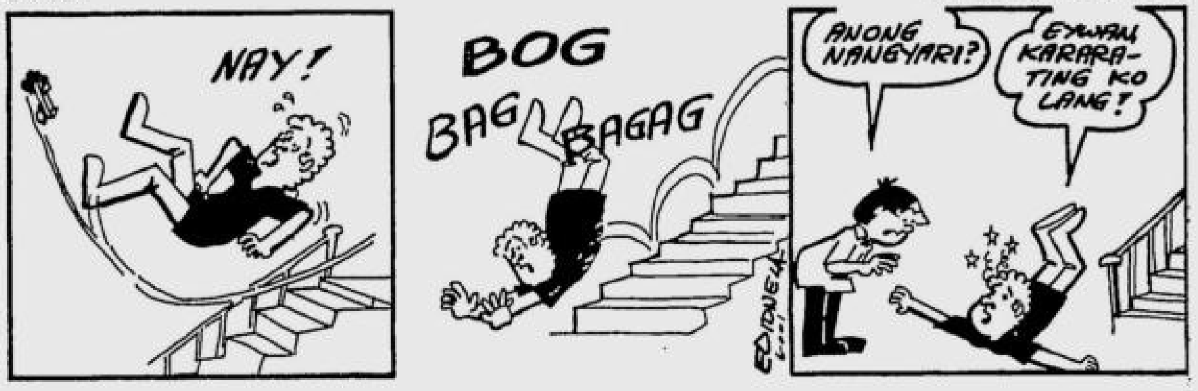
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


DITO LANG AKO, 'MY. MAGDA-DAMO LANG AKO SA GARDEN.
mm.
"MAGDA-DAMO??"
BA'T ME DALA KANG SYANSE?
MALAMOK.

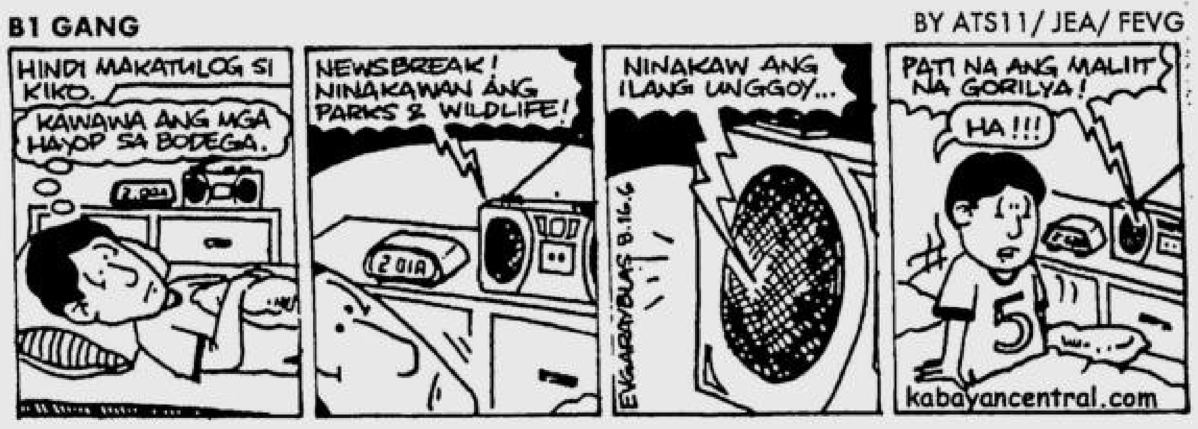
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


NAY!
BOG
BAG
BAGAG
ANONG NANGYARI?
EYWAN. KARARATING KO LANG!
DIONELA

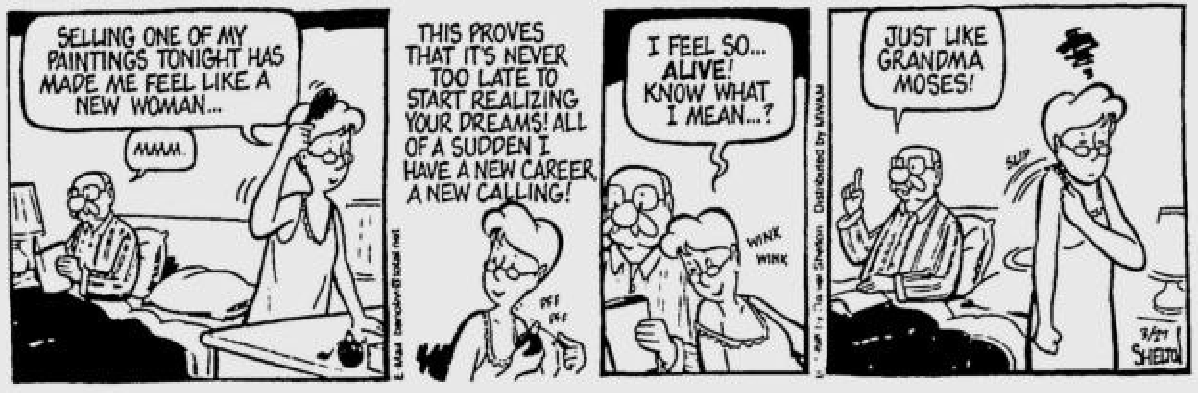
B1 GANG

BY ATS11/ JEA/ FEVG


HINDI MAKATULOG SI KIKO.
KAWAWA ANG MGA HAYOP SA BODEGA.
NEWSBREAK! NINAKAWAN ANG PARKS & WILDLIFE!
2:01A
NINAKAW ANG ILANG UNGGOY...
PATI NA ANG MALIIT NA GORILYA!
HA!!!
kabayancentral.com

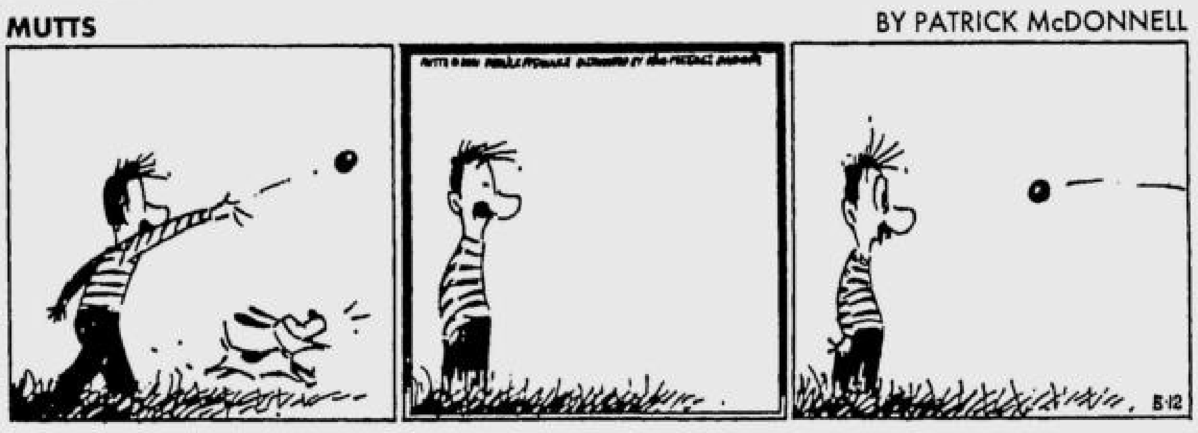
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


SELLING ONE OF MY PAINTINGS TONIGHT HAS MADE ME FEEL LIKE A NEW WOMAN...
MMM.
THIS PROVES THAT IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO START REALIZING YOUR DREAMS! ALL OF A SUDDEN I HAVE A NEW CAREER, A NEW CALLING!
I FEEL SO... ALIVE! KNOW WHAT I MEAN...?
WINK WINK
JUST LIKE GRANDMA MOSES!
SLIP
3/27 SHELTON

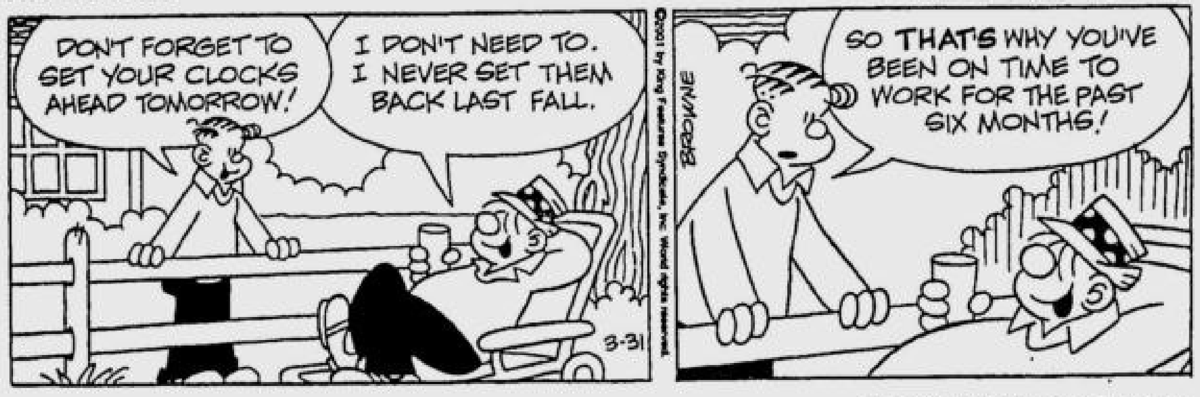
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL



HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


DON'T FORGET TO SET YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD TOMORROW!
I DON'T NEED TO. I NEVER SET THEM BACK LAST FALL.
3-31
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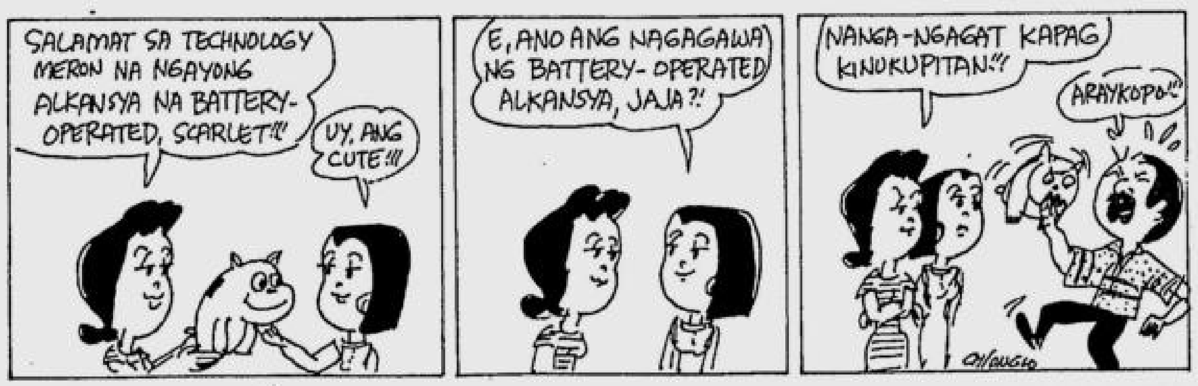
BROWNE
SO THAT'S WHY YOU'VE BEEN ON TIME TO WORK FOR THE PAST SIX MONTHS!

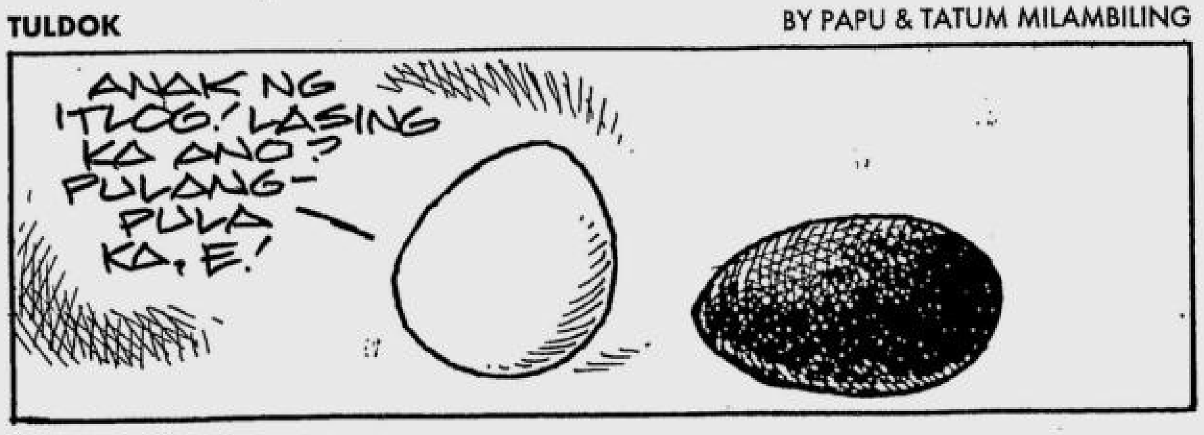
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


SALAMAT SA TECHNOLOGY MERON NA NGAYONG ALKANSYA NA BATTERY-OPERATED, SCARLET!!!
UY, ANG CUTE!!!
E, ANO ANG NAGAGAWA NG BATTERY-OPERATED ALKANSYA, JAJA?!
NANGA-NGAGAT KAPAG KINUKUPITAN!!
ARAYKOPO!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


ANAK NG ITLOG! LASING KA ANO? PULANG-PULA KA, E!

Regine, Joey G, Chad guest in Kuh's concert June 29

MONTAGE

THREE may be a crowd but not for Kuh Ledesma, who personally chose three guests to join her in her dinner-concert "Kuh Sings Streisand" at the Fiesta Pavilion of The Manila Hotel on June 29.

The three are Regine Velasquez, Side A lead singer Joey G. And Chad Borja.

Kuh, Chad and Joey will perform some of Streisand's famous duets like "I Finally Found Someone" and "You Don't Bring Me Flowers Anymore."

But the highlight of the evening will be Kuh's rendition of all-time Streisand favorites like "The Way We Were," "Some Good Things Never Last," "People" and "Evergreen."

Dinner is 7 p.m. while showtime is at 9 p.m. Call 551-7252 to 55.

Aiza's album hits platinum

Aiza Seguerra's newest album "Pagdating ng Panahon" is now certified platinum after a month and a half in the market. Awarding rites were held recently on "SOP" with MG O. Mozo, Vicor's vice president for products and promotions, officiating.

"Pagdating sa Panahon," carrier single of Aiza's album, has consistently topped the charts of various radio stations. Other songs in the album are "Sorry," "The Right One," "If We Try," Take Me I'll Follow," "If" and "Put a Little Love in Your Heart."

Aiza is now on the last leg of her mall tour with performances at SM Pampanga today and SM Southmall tomorrow.

'Fete de la Musique'

As the French celebrate "Fete de la Musique," an annual gathering of musicians in the streets of beautiful Paris that began in 1982, Filipino artists have also heeded the call to contribute to the French effort.

With the surefire fun formula that is the concert-party mix, A. Mabini st. in Malate turns into a mirror of Paris for "Fete de la Musique" today at 9 p.m. with local bands providing the musical backdrop to mark the festivities.

Among the performers who have signed up for the event are Rivermaya, Radioactive Sago Project, Brownbeat Allstars, Tropical Depression, Cynthia Alexander, Sandwich, Razorback, Bo Razon and Puro Ritmo and Pinikpikan.

SEGUERRA. On the last leg of her mall tour.

Telenovela on GMA

GMA will soon air the latest hit telenovela in the Latin American region, "Monica Brava" starring Natalia. The series has been generating a lot of interest in Spanish-speaking countries.

NATALIA. Star of "Monica Brava."

'Lara Croft' premiere

MTV Philippines Channel 41 presents an exclusive advance screening of "Lara Croft: Tomb Raider" on June 28 at 7:30 p.m. at Cinema 6 of Glorietta IV. The first 50 moviegoers who come dressed as Lara Croft will get in for free. Other prizes will be given away during the premiere night.

Angelina Jolie stars as Lara Croft, the 21st century heroine inspired by the interactive video character. Here Lara takes on her greatest challenge: find the halves of an ancient artifact to prevent it from geeting into the hands of a powerful secret society.

Karylle's new album

Karylle's hit single "Can't Live Without You" from her debut album "Time to Shine" has been made into a music video directed by Cholo Laurel, which was previewed on "SOP" last Sunday.

Her album is currently one of the fastest moving products in music outlets. With every CD purchased, buyers get a one-hour Internet access card and a booklet with full-color poster of Karylle and Gil.

Liturgical songs

"Pananagutan: A Lifetime of Music and Love," features the liturgical songs of Fr. Eddie Hontiveros, SJ, as performed by the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra under the baton of Gerard Salonga in a concert at the UP Theater on July 7 and 8 at 7:30.

Special guests are Carol Banawa, Noel Cabangon, a 100-voice choir and Fr. Manoling Francisco, S.J.

Call 426-5971 or 426-6101 ext. 3425.

Adventure videos

Have you ever wanted your home videos aired on the National Geographic Channel? Now is your chance as NGC announces a call for submission for "Up For It," a new global adventure series featuring the best footage from thrill seekers, eco-explorers and people who live on the edge who have captured their adventures on digital video.

Applicants whose videos are chosen will have their adventures seen by Asian audiences when NGC airs "Up for It" in early 2002. Individuals whose works are selected will receive $200 for every minute of footage broadcast.

Full details and an official entry form are available online at www.ngcasia.com. Please direct your entry form to Mr. Boon at wbang@startv.com. The deadline for submissions is July 31, 2001. (*Compiled by Edmund L. Sicam*)

Movies on TV this week

SUSAN Sarandon co-stars with Julia Roberts in "Stepmom" on HBO at 4 p.m. today.

ON the HBO channel, Saturday, June 23, 6:30 a.m., "In My Sister's Shadow." 8 a.m., "Uncommon Valor." 9:45 a.m., "True Believer." 11:30 a.m., "Just Sue Me." 1 p.m., "Air Speed." 2:30 p.m., "Escape Under Pressure." 4 p.m., "Stepmom." 6 p.m., "Life's Little Struggles." 7:30 p.m., "Money Talks." 9 p.m., "The General's Daughter." 11 p.m., Sex And The City 31: Where There's Smoke . . ." 11:30 p.m., "Sex And The City 32: Politically Erect." 12:05 a.m., "Analyze This." 1:45 a.m, "Immediate Family." 3:30 a.m., "Her Alibi." 5 a.m., "A Face To Kill For."

Sunday, June 24, 6:30 a.m., "The Perfect Nanny." 8 a.m., "The Fury Within." 9:45 a.m., "Midnight Run." 12 p.m., "Dangerous Attraction." 1:30 p.m., "Bird On A Wire." 3:15 p.m., "The Deep End Of The Ocean." 5 p.m., "Dog Park." 6:30 p.m., "Switching Goals." 8 p.m. "Tequila Sunrise." 10 p.m., "The Whole Nine Yards." 11:40 p.m., "Jawbreaker." 1:05 a.m., "Mother Night." 3 a.m. "The Velocity Of Gary." 4:45 a.m., "Frozen With Fear."

Monday, June 25, 6:30 a.m., "Heroes." 8:30 a.m., "Moon Over Parador." 10:15 a.m., "Home Team." 12 p.m., "Psycho." 1:45 p.m., "Dangerous Beauty." 3:30 p.m. "TLC: Fan Mail." 5:30 p.m., "Sleep Easy." 7:15 p.m., "Double Jeopardy." 9 p.m., "The Delivery." 11 p.m. "Payback." 12:40 a.m., "The Car." 2:30 a.m., "Little Nikita." 4:15a.m., "Double Jeopardy."

'The Whole Nine Yards'

Tuesday, June 26, 6 a.m. "Hard To Hold." 7:45 a.m., "Lock, Stock And Two Smoking Barrels." 9:30 a.m., "Escape Under Pressure." 11 a.m., "The Growing Pains Movie." 12:30 p.m., "The Whole Nine Yards." 2:15 p.m., "Stealing Home." 4 p.m. "Flashdance." 5:45 p.m., "Maverick." 8 p.m., "Cape Fear." 10 p.m., "Sex And The City 33: Attack Of The 5' 10" Woman." 10:30 p.m., "Python." 12:10 a.m., "Silk Hope." 1:40 a.m., "8MM." 3:45 a.m., "Maverick."

Wednesday, June 27, 6 a.m., "Criminal Instinct: A Colder Kind Of Death." 7:30 a.m., "Web Of Lies." 9 a.m., "Dog Park." 10:30 a.m., "A Face To Kill For." 12 p.m., "The General's Daughter." 2 p.m., "The Goodbye Girl." 4 p.m., "Summer Rental." 5:30 p.m., "A Memory In My Heart." 7 p.m. "Bird On A Wire." 9 p.m., "Falcon Down." 10:30 p.m., "In Dreams." 12:10 a.m., "The General's Daughter." 2:15 a.m., "Blood Money." 4 a.m., "Bird On A Wire."

Thursday, June 28, 6 a.m., "TLC: Fan Mail." 8 a.m., "Dangerous Attraction." 9:30 a.m., "Frozen With Fear." 11 a.m., "The Deep End Of The Ocean." 12:45 p.m., "Money Talks." 2:30 p.m., "The Car." 4 p.m., "Switching Goals." 5:30 p.m., "Without Limits." 7:30 p.m., "Airspeed." 9 p.m., "The Whole Nine Yards." 11 p.m., "Mother Night." 12:50 a.m., "Life's Little Struggles." 2:30 a.m., "The Deep End Of The Ocean." 4:30 a.m. "Without Limits."

Friday, June 29, 6:30 a.m., "Little Nikita." 8 a.m., "Silk Hope." 9:30 a.m., "Dangerous Beauty." 11:15 a.m., "Stealing Home." 1 p.m., "The Delivery." 2:45 p.m., "Immediate Family." 4:30 p.m., "The Growing Pains Movie." 6 p.m., "Hard To Hold." 7:30 p.m., "Escape Under Pressure." 9 p.m., "Tequila Sunrise." 11 p.m., "Psycho." 12:45 a.m., "The Delivery." 2:30 a.m., "Boogie Nights." 5 a.m., "Escape Under Pressure."

On Cinemax

On the Cinemax channel, Saturday, June 23, 6 a.m., "When Justice Fails." 7:30 a.m., "The Gunrunner." 9 a.m., "Life In A Day." 10:30 a.m., "Streets Of Fire." 12:15 p.m., "The Last Marshall." 2 p.m., "The Night Walker." 3:30 p.m., "The Warden." 5:15 p.m., "The Master Of Ballantrae." 7:45 p.m.,

MOVIES/P. E8

NO, NOT ON HIS FACE.

SELECTA CORNETTO'S GONNA PAINT THE TOWN DARE! ARE YOU READY?

ON JUNE 23, THE CORNETTO DARE TO PARTY IS INVITING ONLY THE FUNKIEST AND HIPPEST THRILLSEEKERS FOR THE ULTIMATE DOSAGE OF DARING PARTY FUN. JUST CHECK OUT WHAT WE'VE GOT LINED UP FOR YOU!

Music: Two smashing bands that'll get you gaga on the streets with spiked punk and soothing R&B! DJ Mathew of Venezia and DJ Steve Mills will whip the crowd into an all night dance frenzy.

Fashion Show: We dare you to strut on the catwalk with the newest, sexiest threads from Levi's.

Dares!Dares!Dares!: We're gonna see who's got the balls to do dares that range from silly, to downright scary. If you make it, you win cool cash and prizes! So ditch that pacifier, put on that gameface and get to know the true meaning of daring.

There's More! Davidoff, Lipton Ice Tea, Mild-Seven and Blue Ice Beer are just waiting to hand you lots of free stuff. Plus, with Cool Water scented misters all over the place the hottest thing about the party ain't gonna be the weather, but you!

WATCH OUT 'COZ FROM JUNE 23 TO JULY 27, THE GO-4-IT GANG WILL BE OUT ON THE PROWL!

Bar-Blitz: We're raiding the hottest bars and restos in search for only the most adventurous souls to play the game. Rules are simple. Pick a dare, go for it, and you can win up to P1,000 in cash and prizes!

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BAR BLITZ SCHEDULE

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Food Choices
at Glorietta

Malate
July 6, 2001
Nth Degree
Jazz Rythms
Ten Years After
Bedrock
02
Wave Bar
Ratsky

QC
July 13, 2001
Moomba
Ten Years After
Congo Grille
Tia Maria's
Kilimanjaro
East St. Louis

Ortigas
July 20, 2001
Friend's at the Square
Tequila Joe's
Watering Hole
8th Day
Ten Years After
Congo Grille

Alabang
July 27, 2001
Tequila Joe's
Giligan's Island
Gameworx
Fat Tuesday

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

'SWORDFISH'

Travolta stars in gripping action-thriller about cyberspace theft

TRAVOLTA. Nothing is what it seems.

FROM producer Joel Silver, who has brought to the screen some of today's most successful and acclaimed films, including the Oscar-winning smash "The Matrix," comes Warner Bros.'s "Swordfish," a dark counter-espionage action thriller about power, money, sacrifice and 21st century breaking and entering.

John Travolta ("The General's Daughter"), Halle Berry ("X-Men',) and Hugh Jackman ("X-Men") star while Dominic Sena ("Gone in 60 Seconds") directs.

Passwords

There exists a world within our world. A world beneath what we call cyberspace. A world protected by firewalls, passwords and the most advanced security systems. In this world we hide our deepest secrets, our most incriminating information, and of course, a whole lot of money. This is the world of "Swordfish."

John Travolta plays Gabriel Shear, a charismatic and dangerous spy wanting to finance his own brand of patriotism and he needs to get inside this world. If he can get in, billions in illegal government funds wait for the taking. To actually steal the money, however, he'll need a superhacker, someone whose talents make even the most airtight security systems of the world look like child's play.

That's where Stanley Jobson (Jackman) enters the picture. One of the two best hackers on the planet, Stanley has been forbidden to get within 50 yards of the nearest electronics store after doing time for wreaking havoc on the FBI's controversial high-tech cyber surveillance operations.

Now Stanley is living out his life in a broken-down trailer, penniless, alone and without the one thing that gives his life meaning—his daughter Holly, whom he lost in a divorce.

Beautiful partner

Gabriel and his beautiful partner Ginger (Berry) lure Stanley into their clandestine world, baiting him with the one thing he can't have—a chance to reunite with Holly and start a new life. But once Stanley enters their world, he realizes that nothing in this operation is what it seems and he has become a pawn in a plot that's a lot more sinister than a high-tech bank heist.

"Swordfish" unfolds in a world in which nothing is what it seems and every character's allegiances are obscured. "The central question in 'Swordfish' is what these characters are really up to and why," says producer Joel Silver, who has scored in recent years with such back-to-back hits "Romeo Must Die" and "Exit Wounds."

"The circumstances are constantly in question. Who is bad and who is good? Gabriel is not the film's hero, but is he really bad? And Stanley is the good guy, but how good is he really? Everything is changing and shifting and every character has shades of gray."

> The film pushes the envelope on what the world of computers can do, good or bad, for people. But it also keeps its story in the realm of possibility

Ideal backdrop

Silver sees "Swordfish" as "unique, innovative storytelling." The veteran producer, currently at work on the "Matrix" sequels, feels the world of hackers and cyber crime is an ideal backdrop for this type of complex thriller.

"The Internet allows people with a talent for hacking to do things that ordinary people can't do," Silver notes. "And if you reach a certain skill level, or have an innate talent for it, no amount of security of encryption can stop you."

For producer Jonathan D. Krane, whose work with Travolta includes some of the most popular and acclaimed films of the past decade ("Primary Colors," "A Civil Action" and "Michael"), the challenge in producing "Swordfish" was to make complex computer issues accessible.

"I read an article that described something that is right out of our movie," Krane recalls, "and to me that means our story is not only on the cutting edge but also authentic. We're pushing the envelope on what the world of computers can do, both good and bad, for people. But we're also keeping the story within the realm of possibility."

Skip Woods's screenplay opens in a coffee shop while the bank heist is in full swing and then moves backward and forward in time. Travolta was taken by this scene alone. "I read this scene where I'm sitting at a coffee bar and pontificating about movies, in particular 'Dog Day Afternoon,'" he remembers. "I knew I loved it immediately. The best blueprint for the whole character was in those first three or four pages."

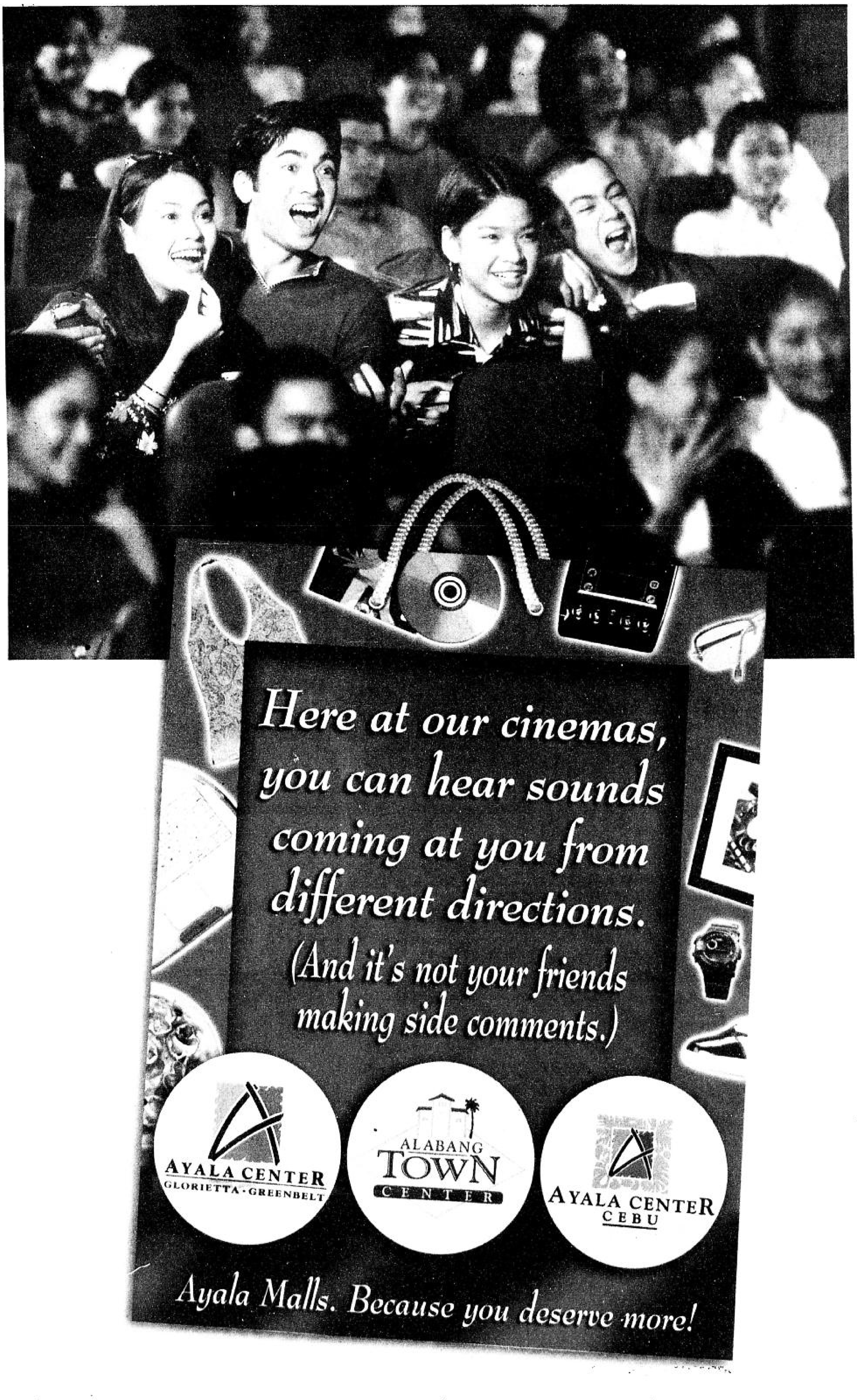
Perfectly suited

Silver, who has known Travolta for years, was thrilled to undertake a project featuring a character so perfectly suited to the actor. "John is so charming naturally that when he creates a character like Gabriel, there is an ambiguity that throws you off," says the producer.

"It makes it hard to know if he's bad; you want him to be the good guy. This is such a vital component to the character and only an actor of John's caliber and charisma could possibly pull it off."

Travolta and Krane were equally thrilled to make "Swordfish" with Joel Silver. "I only feel you should do action films if your guns are loaded, and I mean that metaphorically," says Travolta.

"If you have a great action producer, which Joel is, a great director, and wonderful actors that you can work with, like Hugh Jackman and Halle Berry, then you have something that can potentially be phenomenal."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Movies . . . (From page E7)

"Dennis The Menace Strikes Again!" 9 p.m., "Blast From The Past." 10:45 p.m., "Life In A Day." 12:15 a.m., "The Last Marshall." 1:50 a.m., "Sorry, Wrong Number." 3:15a.m., "Ringmaster." 4:45 a.m., "Stingray."

Sunday, June 24, 6:30 a.m., "Crackers." 8 a.m., "Celebrity Profiles: Richard Gere." 8:45 a.m., "Plughead Rewired Circuitry Man II." 10:15 a.m., "Deadly Desire." 11:45 a.m., "Restraining Order." 1:30 p.m., "Scarface." 4:15 p.m. "Pilgrim." 6 p.m., "Baby Brokers." 7:30 p.m., "Universal Soldier: The Return." 9 p.m., "The Hi-Lo Country." 11 p.m., "Plughead Rewired Circuitry Man II." 12:35 a.m., "Hexed." 2:15 a.m., "Inconceivable." 3:45 a.m., "The Inner Circle."

Monday, June 25, 6 a.m., "Cold Harvest." 7:30 a.m., "The Cotton Club." 9:45 a.m., "The Darwin Conspiracy." 11:15 a.m., "Bloodfist V Human Target." 12:45 p.m., "Small Soldiers." 2:30 p.m., "Shocker." 4:15 p.m. "So Close To Paradise." 5:45 p.m.; "In Vino Veritas." 7:15 p.m., "Blind Heat." 9 p.m., "Detroit Rock City." 10:30 p.m., "Cold Harvest." 12 a.m., "Bloodfist V Human Target." 1:25 a.m., "When Justice Fails." 3 a.m., "Small Soldiers." 4:45 a.m., "The Silencers."

'Out of Sight'

Tuesday, June 26, 6:30 a.m., "Tales From The Crypt." 8 a.m., "Out Of Sight." 10 a.m., "Once Upon A Time In America." 1:45 p.m., "Sorry, Wrong Number." 3:15 p.m., "The Inner Circle." 5:30 p.m., "Blue Ridge Fall." 7:15 p.m., "The Warden." 9 p.m., "Creepshow 2." 10:30 p.m., "Out Of Sight." 12:30 a.m., "Sorry, Wrong Number." 2 a.m., "Tales From The Crypt." 3:15 a.m., "The Infiltrator." 4:45 a.m., "The Man Who Wasn't There."

Wednesday, June 27, 6:30 a.m., "Tequila Body Shots." 8:15 a.m., "Crackers." 9:45 a.m., "Ringmaster." 11:15 a.m., "Invasion Of Privacy." 12:45 p.m., "Baby Brokers." 2:15 p.m., "Ground Zero." 4 p.m., "The Great Impostor." 6 p.m., "Hexed." 7:30 p.m., "Pilgrim." 9 p.m., "Bugsy." 11:15 p.m., "Invasion Of Privacy." 12:45 a.m., "Ground Zero" 2:30 a.m., "What Dreams May Come." 4:30 a.m. "Pilgrim."

'Blast from the Past'

Thursday, June 28, 6 a.m., "Streets Of Fire." 7:30 a.m., "Second Best." 9:15 a.m., "Dennis The Menace Strikes Again!" 10:30 a.m., "The Night Walker." 12 p.m., "Blast From The Past." 1:45 p.m., "Future Kick." 3 p.m., "History Is Made At Night." 4:30 p.m., "The Companion." 6 p.m., "Inconceivable." 7:30 p.m., "High Desert Kill." 9 p.m., "The Gunrunner." 10:30 p.m., "Blast From The Past." 12:10 a.m., "Streets Of Fire." 1:45 a.m., "Dennis The Menace Strikes Again!" 3 a.m., "Shocker." 4:45 a.m., "A Thousand And One Nights."

Friday, June 29, 6:30 a.m., "Sorry, Wrong Number." 8 a.m., "Celebrity Profiles: Richard Gere." 8:45 a.m., "Scarface." 11:30 a.m., "On The Double." 1 p.m., "The Hi-Lo Country." 3 p.m., "Life In A Day." 4:30 p.m., "Deadly Desire." 6 p.m., "Alien Cargo." 7:30 p.m., "Plughead Rewired Circuitry Man II." 9 p.m., "Stormcatcher." 10:30 p.m., "Scarface." 1:10 a.m., "Life In A Day." 2:45 a.m., "The Last Marshall." 4:15 a.m., "Bob Roberts."

*Saturday*SPECIAL

Michael J. Fox stays animated despite health troubles

By Anthony Breznican

LOS ANGELES—Even in live-action roles, Michael J. Fox has always played animated characters.

He's been a tie-adjusting, hand-waving, hair-pulling guy on TV shows like "Family Ties" and "Spin City" and the "Back to the Future" movies. But as the actor struggles to overcome Parkinson's disease, control of his body is something he no longer takes for granted.

FOX. Taking on vocal roles has made work easier for him.

The actor has discovered cartoons as a new outlet for his talents

New outlet

Coincidentally, Fox has discovered cartoons as a new outlet for his thoughtfully manic performances.

The actor's recent starring roles include the voices of a shy linguist in Disney's new "Atlantis: The Lost Empire" and the tiny, computer-generated mouse in "Stuart Little" and its upcoming sequel.

"People ask me all the time if it's health related, the fact that I'm doing so much voice stuff," Fox said. "It's not really, it's just a matter of coincidence . . . If I had the time that it would take to do on camera performances, I would."

But the actor, who turned 40 June 9, said taking on the vocal roles has definitely made work easier for him.

"It's great when you go in and all you have to think about is getting the voice . . . It is easier," Fox said. "It's nice to not have to worry about having the physical energy I may not have at that moment."

Symptoms

The four-time Emmy winner was diagnosed in 1991 with the degenerative brain disorder with such symptoms as shaking, spasms and loss of balance and coordination.

Fox continued to headline the ABC's "Spin City" for two more seasons after going public with his illness in 1998 but left last year to spend more time advocating for Parkinson's research.

He also said he had trouble hiding the trembling in his extremities.

Rob Minkoff, the director of "Stuart Little" and next year's "Stuart Little 2," said Fox's vocal performances remain strong despite his illness.

"I have noticed the Parkinson's has progressed," Minkoff said. "But I think (animation) gives him an opportunity to use his gifts, without having to use his physical appearance."

The mouse Fox plays is animated, but the rest of the "Stuart Little" movies is live-action.

Fox said he first came to children's movies because he thought it would tickle his own kids. He and his wife, actress Tracy Pollan, have three children and another on the way.

Fox's first children's movie was as the voice of a dog in 1993's "Homeward Bound: The Incredible Journey."

Elaborate sketches

The producers of "Atlantis" visited him on the set of "Spin City" to pitch the new undersea project, setting up elaborate sketches and designs in the actor's dressing room.

But it was Fox's son, Sam, who closed the deal.

"I knew my son would like it. He just turned 12 and for his twelfth birthday we screened the movie for all his friends . . It was great," the boyish Fox added with a grin.

"Atlantis" producer Don Hahn said he was surprised by the energy Fox brought to his part as Milo Thatch, the soft-spoken adventurer.

"I mean, here' s a guy who's dealing with life-threatening issues . . . It'd be hard for anyone faced in the middle of your life with a disease that could change your career," Hahn said. "You make a living with you body and you've lost control of your body . . . But he's not stopping."

Fox plans to make a guest appearance next season on "Spin City,"

MICHAEL/p.F2

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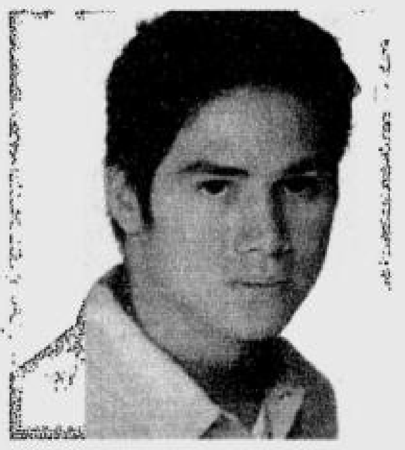
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0663 Series of 2001

TWO FOR THE SHOW

Piolo Pascual focuses on his career

By Mary Ann A. Bautista and Ricky T. Gallardo



PASCUAL. Versatile performer.

MARA. Featured in new telesine.

PIOLO Pascual can be vocal, opinionated, candid and mysterious all at the same time. And it's this chameleon-like ability that fascinates the viewer.

From his performances in "Mila" and "Sa Puso Ko Iingatan Ka," we can say that he's credible both as the good or bad guy. He can shift from being a victim to a victimizer. Either way his performance is heartfelt and sincere.

At 24, Piolo prefers to stay at home than party at night. He believes that being in the limelight complicates things, while being with his family simplifies them.

"When I'm at home I play a lot with my niece, sleep, take care of our plants, or play with my Dalmatian, Cha-pee. When I was in the States, I watched movies everyday. I'm a movie addict. I can't do that here," Piolo reveals.

His intensity and sensitivity are innate to him. He grew up with four sisters and one brother. He used to have one gallery of matchboxes (toy cars) and courted girls in high school by writing poetry.

He confesses that he's conservative and a hopeless romantic. He further reveals that he's not been able to be in a relationship where there is no sex involved. But he's bothered by the attitude of young people towards sex.

"Their attitude is more dangerous. Courtship has become more relaxed, no more serenading. If they want to have something, they want it immediately. The fact that people engage in premarital sex is something that we cannot change. Most of the girls I know have become liberated because of their environment. For us guys, it's because of peer pressure," he shares.

Piolo admits that he's conservative in most ways but he wants to express his love through "making love" when he's in a relationship. What's his view on relationships?

"If I have a girlfriend, I want her to be the last. I don't want to invest time in someone who I know will sooner or later be out of my life. It is an emotional and mental investment. I am saving for my future because I want to settle down.

"That is why I want her to be the last because it takes time to know if she's really meant for you. But marriage is not yet on my mind, not in the next five years," he notes.

Russel C. Mon makes his presence felt

After being launched as one of the leading men of Judy Ann Santos in "Luv Txt," and Angelika de la Cruz in "Ikaw Lang ang Mamahalin," Russel C. Mon still can't believe his luck. He appears to be star-struck but he feels that this break should not be taken lightly. He enjoys watching TV and he can't believe that his face will be seen regularly on a daily primetime soap.

"I watched Donita Rose on 'Ober Da Bakod' every week in Bicol. I also enjoy 'Eat Bulaga,'" Russel grins.

Aside from watching TV, playing basketball is one of his favorite activities. He made it to the basketball varsity team in Letran College before he was discovered as a commercial model.

He confesses that he learned to act through his TV commercials. But he's gaining more hands-on knowledge as he tapes for "Ikaw Lang."

Mentor and art patron

At the one-night art exhibit of our mentor, Nestor U. Torre at noted artist Araceli Dans' studio last month, we were impressed to see that the guest of honor was the famous editor and publisher Eugenia D. Apostol.

Ms Apostol cut the innovative ceremonial ribbon to open the exhibit, and Ms Dans' brother, Fr. Limcaco blessed the new studio and the exhibit.

We asked some of the people present what the connection was between NUT and Ms Apostol, and we were told that she had been *his* mentor in the field of journalism, since he began writing for her in the mid-60's.

As for their relationship in the field of art, it turned out that NUT was an inveterate doodler from way back and would sketch on anything, even on matchboxes.

Ms Apostol saw this and started to "collect" NUT's "matchbox art," joking that she was doing so just in case he became a famous painter in the future!

Well, decades later, NUT did mount his first art exhibit, and he remembered Ms Apostol's "prescient" statement, so he asked her to do him the great honor of cutting the ribbon at his exhibit.

Ms Apostol graciously did that—and more: She was so taken with one of NUT's paintings, of the altar at Sta. Ana Church, that she bought it. Twenty-two other art patrons also got themselves NUT's beautiful and original artworks that night, so the exhibit was an unqualified success.

Chad Borja takes it a day at a time

As much as possible, crooner Chad Borja doesn't want to keep on talking about his bout with thyroid cancer which sidelined him two years ago, and which made him re-assess his life and career. "I guess I just want to move on and let that episode be a part of my past. I have learned to take each day at a time and embrace all the blessings of every new day," he says.

Borja just flew back from successful shows in Michigan where he regaled the Filipino communities with his brand of music. "They really missed home and once I started singing Tagalog songs, specially those they were familiar with, the crowd just went wild," he recalls.

Borja's latest CD, "Show Me The Way," produced by Yutaka Yokokura and recorded in Los Angeles, is getting rave reviews for its high level of musicality and vocal performance.

Borja will be diva Kuh Ledesma's lone male guest when she stages her "Kuh Sings Streisand" concert at The Manila Hotel next Friday (June 29). "No question, Chad is one of the genuinely gifted singers we have, and he needs all the good breaks he can get," endorses Kuh.

Lorenzo Mara vows to be more visible

He says he's never left but we've rarely seen him in the movies and on television for the past few years. Lorenzo Mara promises to be more active now that he's under the management of film and TV director Maryo de los Reyes.

"I think it's important to have a manager so that my career will have more direction and focus. The push that a manager gives to his talent can truly spell the difference," he intones.

Mara started as one of the three Regal glamour boys who were launched in the early '90s, the other two being Ricardo Cepeda (husband of Snooky Serna and occasional character actor) and Chris Llanes (a part-time commercial model).

He made a few forgettable films like "Secrets of Pura" and "Isang Gabi, Tatlong Babae" but also got important parts in the BBC produced TV-movie "Lucia," and the Ruben Torres bioflick.

The son of actress turned government executive Lollie Mara, Lorenzo tackles one of his most interesting roles for TV in the telesine, "Mga Babae sa Nobelang Romansa," to be aired tomorrow (June 24) on Channel 7, directed by Maryo J.

While waiting for bigger breaks to come, Mara has set his sights on a restaurant business which he and his siblings will open soon in Parañaque.

MS APOSTOL cuts the ribbon to open NUT's art exhibit, as Fr. Limcaco, the artist and Araceli Dans look on.

NUT (center) with (from left) Lollie Mara, Marilou Diaz-Abaya, Laurice Guillen and Mitch Valdes.

Michael J. Fox . . .

(From page F1)

reprising his role as Michael Flaherty, who left the fictional mayor's office after taking the fall for a scandal.

He's also writing an autobiography tentatively titled "Lucky Man," which will chronicle his life in show business as well as his quest for improved Parkinson's research.

With the right funding, Fox said he believes a cure is only a decade away.

Research

"The thing about Parkinson's research, and a lot of neurological research, is that it's a great situation where the science is way ahead of the money," he said. "There are (researchers) out there who know what to do, they just need the resources."

Another happy side effect of working in animation, Fox said, is that it supplies him more time to work for the Parkinson's research foundation he created. "I can call and say, 'OK, I have two hours on Wednesday,' and we can get on the soundstage and I can go in and do it." Fox said. "As opposed to trying to get an entire film crew together (for the whole day.)"

There are other benefits, too.

"I don't have to shave or comb my hair or dress up nice," he joked.

Although the lanky Milo Thatch is much taller than Fox, elements of the actor were used to create the "Atlantis" character's physical look.

John Pomeroy, supervising animator of the Milo character, watched video of Fox performing the voice when deciding how the cartoon should move or express certain emotions. *AP*

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YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM JUNE 23 - JUNE 29

CH	2	4	5	7	9	13	23	29	E! 31
SAT	5:30 Magandang Gabi, Bayan 7:00 Arriba, Arriba 8:30 Da Body en Da Guard 9:30 Pinoy Exposed 10:00 Keep on Dancing 11:00 "F" 11:30 Sports Unlimited 12:00 The Weekend News	6:00 Auto Review 6:30 Uncut 7:00 The Working President 8:00 Sound of Love 10:00 Explore with Mike 11:00 National Network News 11:30 Auto Focus	6:00 Vampires 6:30 Sailormoon Super S 7:00 Tropang Trumpo 8:00 Ispup 9:00 Saturday Night Specials *Me And The Mob* 11:00 Diagnosis Murder	5:30 Brigada Siete 7:00 Idol Ko Si Kap 8:00 Kakabakaba 9:00 GMA's BEST *Last Dance* 11:00 Master Showman Presents 12:30 GMA Network News 1:00 The 700 Club	6:00 Sports World 7:00 Invisible Man 8:00 Martial Law 9:00 Saturday Night Playhouse *Star Olympics 2001 Part I* 11:00 Business Class	7:00 Viva Premiere Night *Habang May Buhay* 9:00 Kagat Ng Dilim 10:00 2001 PBA Commissioner's Cup Provincial Game Pampanga *Ginebra vs. Sta. Lucia*	6:00 Born Free 7:00 Lassie 7:30 Seventh Heaven 8:30 Gilmore Girls 9:30 Studio 23 Presents 12:00 MYX	3:00 Q Show Case 7:00 Xclusive Cinema Special 9:00 Oras ng Katotohanan 9:30 Armor of God 10:00 Oh Tokyo 11:00 Pinoy Wrestling	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! Coming Attractions 7:00 Celebrity Profile *Jerry Seinfeld* 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story *Dudley Moore* 9:00 Soul Music Festival w/ Sinbad 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Uncut *Tina Turner* 11:30 Extreme Close Up 12:00 E! Coming Attractions
SUN	5:30 Knowledge Power 6:00 Sharon 7:00 Wansapanataym 8:30 Eto na ang Susunod na Kabanata 9:30 ABS-CBN Presents 11:30 The Weekend News	3:00 MBA 8:00 Primetime Specials *Equinox* 10:00 National Network News 10:30 Fashion Watch 11:00 Business & Leisure	6:00 Sinbad the Sailor 6:30 Guyferd 7:00 Sing-Galing 8:00 Wow Mali! 9:00 Eezy Dancing 10:00 Sunday Night Movies *Dead In The Water* 12:00 Sentinel	5:30 Partners Mel and Jay 7:00 Bitoy's World. 7:30 GMA Telesine 9:30 Sunday Night Box Office *Rocky IV* 11:30 Che-Che Lazaro Presents 12:00 GMA Network News 12:30 Little Night of Music	6:00 Shadow Raiders 6:30 Crash Zone 7:00 Ripley's Believe It or Not 8:00 Just Kidding 8:30 Kids Say the Darnest Thing 9:00 Sunday's Big Event *The Craft* 11:00 Sunday Report	4:00 2001 PBA Commissioner's Cup Game 1 6:30 PBA Game 2 9:00 Sinemaks 11:30 El Shaddai	6:00 Starship Troopers 6:30 Rugrats 7:00 Batman Beyond 7:30 Futurama 8:00 The Nanny 8:30 Spin City 9:00 Will & Grace 9:30 Jack & Jill 10:30 Digital Tour 11:00 Sunday Night Movies	5:00 Quartermaster Window Shop 7:00 Sunday Mini-Series 8:00 Oh Tokyo 9:00 Sunday Night Movies 11:00 Bikini Open	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! Coming Attractions 7:00 True Hollywood Special *The Comedy Store* 9:00 E! Special *E! Goes to Cannes 2001* 11:00 60 minutes 12:00 E! Coming Attractions
MON	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 8:00 Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Kaya ni Mister, Kaya ni Misis 9:30 Your Honor 11:00 Headlines 11:30 Correspondents 12:30 Martin Late@Nite	5:30 Pambansang Balita 6:00 To be announced 7:00 To be announced 10:00 National Network News 11:00 To be announced	6:00 F 6:30 Mahha Go Go Go 7:00 Guni-Guni 8:00 The Big Night *Roger And Me* 10:00 The Big News 10:30 High Tide 11:30 The Big News (Replay)	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Ikaw Lang ang Mamahalin 7:00 Lupin III 7:30 Pinoy Blockbusters *Bagsik ng Kamao* 9:30 Kiss Muna 10:30 Front Page 11:00 I-Witness 12:00 The 700 Club	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Quinceañera 6:30 Siempre Te Amare 7:00 Maria del Cielo 7:30 Sparks 8:00 World's Most Amazing Videos 9:00 The X-Files 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 NYPD Blue	7:30 NBA Action 8:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:00 Viva Proudly Presents 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Good Take	6:00 MYX 7:00 I Dream of Jeannie 7:30 Making the Band 8:00 Dawson's Creek 9:00 Charmed 10:00 News Central 10:30 Points of View 11:30 Grapevine 12:00 MYX	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Daily 7:00 In Focus *Celebrity Spas* 8:00 Mysteries & Scandals 8:30 Search Party 9:00 Fashion Emergency 9:30 E! News Daily 10:00 60 Minutes 11:00 Wild on *Summer Vaction* 12:00 Talk Soup
TUE	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 8:00 Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Oka Tokat 9:30 Regal Presents 11:00 Headlines 11:30 Mission X 12:30 Martin Late@Nite	5:30 Pambansang Balita 6:00 2001 PBL Chairman's Cup 8:00 To be Announced 9:00 To be Announced 10:00 National Network News 11:00 Business Insight	6:00 Dragon League 6:30 2 Years Vacation w/ Dinosaurs 7:00 ABC Action Theater *Super Fist* 9:00 That '70s Show 9:30 Life with Roger 10:00 The Big News 10:30 FX The Series 11:30 The Big News (Replay)	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Ikaw Lang ang Mamahalin 7:00 Lupin III 7:30 Kool Ka Lang 9:00 Kasangga 10:30 Front Page 11:00 The Probe Team 12:00 The 700 Club	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Quinceañera 6:30 Siempre Te Amare 7:00 Maria del Cielo 7:30 Stark Raving Mad 8:00 Ally McBeal 9:00 The Practice 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 Pretender 11:30 Ngayon Na Pinoy	6:30 Bayan Ni Juan 7:00 DMZ TV 8:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:00 NBA Finals (Replay) 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Good Take	6:00 MYX 7:00 The Three Stooges 7:30 Baywatch 8:30 Angel 9:30 Mad About You 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Zine 12:00 MYX	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Ang Dating Daan (Live)	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Daily 7:00 Celebrity Profile *Margaret Cho* 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 Celebrity Homes 9:30 E! News Daily 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Uncut *Vanessa Williams* 11:30 Extreme Close Up 12:00 Talk Soup
WED	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 8:00 Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Pwedeng-Pwede 9:30 Kabalikat 11:00 Headlines 11:30 Isyu 101 12:30 Martin Late@Nite	5:30 Pambansang Balita 6:00 MBA 8:00 To be Announced 9:00 To be Announced 10:00 National Network News 11:00 Family Rosary Crusade	6:00 Pygmalio 6:30 Time Quest 7:00 Planet X 7:30 Sabrina The Teenage Witch 8:00 Chicago Sons 8:30 Friends 9:00 E.R. 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Phils.' Most Wanted 11:30 Police Academy	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Ikaw Lang ang Mamahalin 7:00 Lupin III 7:30 Beh Bote Nga 9:00 Larawan 10:30 Front Page 11:00 Imbestigador 12:00 The 700 Club	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Quinceañera 6:30 Siempre Te Amare 7:00 Maria del Cielo 7:30 Malcolm in the Middle 8:00 Roswell 9:00 Buffy the Vampire Slayer 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 Wrestling 11:30 Kasangga Mo Ay Langit	5:00 PBA Game 1 7:30 PBA Game 2 10:00 Blow By Blow 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Good Take	7:00 Twilight Zone 7:30 Survivor 2 8:30 When Hidden Camera Attacks 9:00 Gameplan 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 The Explorer 12:00 MYX	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Daily 7:00 InFocus *Love Hollywood Style* 8:00 Mysteries & Scandals 8:30 Search Party 9:00 Fashion Emergency 9:30 E! News Daily 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On *Dixie* 12:00 Talk Soup
THU	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 8:00 Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Home Along da Riles 9:30 Maalaala Mo Kaya 11:00 Headlines 11:30 Pipol 12:30 Martin Late@Nite	5:30 Pambansang Balita 6:00 2001 PBL Chairman's Cup 8:00 To be Announced 9:00 To be Announced 10:00 National Network News 11:00 Paco Park Presents	6:00 Shulato 6:30 Fancy Lala 7:00 Guinness World Records 8:00 Soldier of Fortune 9:00 Burning Zone 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Strangers 11:00 New York Undercover 12:00 The Big News (Replay)	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Ikaw Lang ang Mamahalin 7:00 Lupin III 7:30 1 For 3 8:30 Sinerama 10:30 Front Page 11:00 Debate with Mare at Pare 12:00 The 700 Club	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Quinceañera 6:30 Siempre Te Amare 7:00 Maria del Cielo 7:30 Amazing People 8:00 Felicity 9:00 Once and Again 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 The Basketball Show 11:30 Police Hour	5:30 NBA Finals (Replay) 8:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:00 TeleViva Specials 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Good Take	6:00 MYX 7:00 The Green Hornet 7:30 Cineplex 23 9:30 Guide to Urban Living 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Travel Time 12:00 MYX	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Daily 7:00 Celebrity Profile *Dixie Carter* 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 Celebrity Homes 9:30 E! News Daily 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Uncut *Shania Twain* 11:30 Extreme Close Up 12:00 Talk Soup
FRI	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 8:00 Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Digimon 9:00 Star Cinema Presents 11:00 Headlines 11:30 True Crime 12:30 Martin Late@Nite	5:30 Pambansang Balita 6:00 MBA 8:00 Street Legal 9:00 Pulsong Masa 10:00 National Network News 11:00 Concert At The Park	6:00 Lazenca 6:30 Restol 7:00 Top of the Pops 7:30 By Request 8:00 Touched By an Angel 9:00 Working 9:30 Normal Ohio 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Friday Box Office	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Ikaw Lang ang Mamahalin 7:00 Lupin III 7:30 Pokemon 8:00 Bubble Gang 9:30 GMA Love Stories 10:30 Front Page 11:00 Emergency 12:00 One Cubed	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Quinceañera 6:30 Siempre Te Amare 7:00 Maria del Cielo 7:30 Holding the Baby 8:00 Dharma & Greg 8:30 Nikki 9:00 City of Angels 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 TV Greats on Friday [illegible]	5:00 PBA Game 1 7:30 PBA Game 2 10:00 Gags Must be Crazy 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Last Fool Show	6:30 MYX 7:00 Batman 7:30 Exposed 8:30 West Wing 9:30 Murphy Brown 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:15 Nightman 12:00 MYX	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Ang Dating Daan (Live)	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Daily 7:00 InFocus *Celebrity Weddings* 8:00 Mysteries & Scandals 8:30 Search Party 9:00 Fashion Emergency 9:30 E! News Daily 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On *Rising Sun* 12:00 Talk Soup

THE BARANGAY Manggagaya segment of "Ispup."

Young viewers' favorite TV comedy shows

BY KATHLEEN ANGELI TORRE

TV comedians help us ease stress through laughter. We recently asked some young viewers which comedy shows they favored, and these are their choices—and why:

"'Bubble Gang.' Many of the good comedy actors in the country are in this show. Each has his own style in making viewers laugh. That way, the show doesn't become redundant and people with different kinds of preferences can appreciate it.

"I like most of their jokes because of their double meaning, leaving the viewer to wonder what they mean. Even simple jokes remind me of some of the funny moments in my life and makes me laugh all over again."—*Angelo Czar Manzano, 16*

Political issues

"'Eto Na Ang Susunod Na Kabanata.' Aside from making me laugh with their jokes, they tackle political issues and current events like Edsa 2 and 3 and the elections. It's great because we can relate to what's happening while they joke about it.

"They're good at imitating and impersonating people from the world of politics in a way that's entertaining and unforgettable."—*Erwin Sumang, 17*

"I like 'Ispup.' They have skillful actors who imitate politicians and other personalities in a not so offensive manner, maintaining the refreshing kind of humor they are aiming for. I like how they can make us forget even for just a few minutes how unstable our country is. It's a good remedy for the tension after work or school."—*Alex Garcia, 14*

No stereotype

"I like watching 'Ally McBeal' because it shows what a woman really feels inside—the intense humor and last song syndromes. It represents what a person is—a thinking, feeling being. I especially like Ally because her character is not a stereotype of a working woman. She has urges which do not seem normal.

"I also like the show because I see another kind f yuppie legal office which is not so business oriented. All kinds of people can be seen in the show—the fool, the hypocrite, the strong, and the beautiful but dumb."—*Kris J. Obcena, 17*

"'Murphy Brown' shows relationships with officemates in a lively way. I love Murphy's character—smart, relentless and frank. I like seeing a strong woman, someone who is respected and feared by those who are guilty and by those who have something to hide. It's funny but it has good sense and you laugh for a good reason."—*Sheila Martinez, 15*

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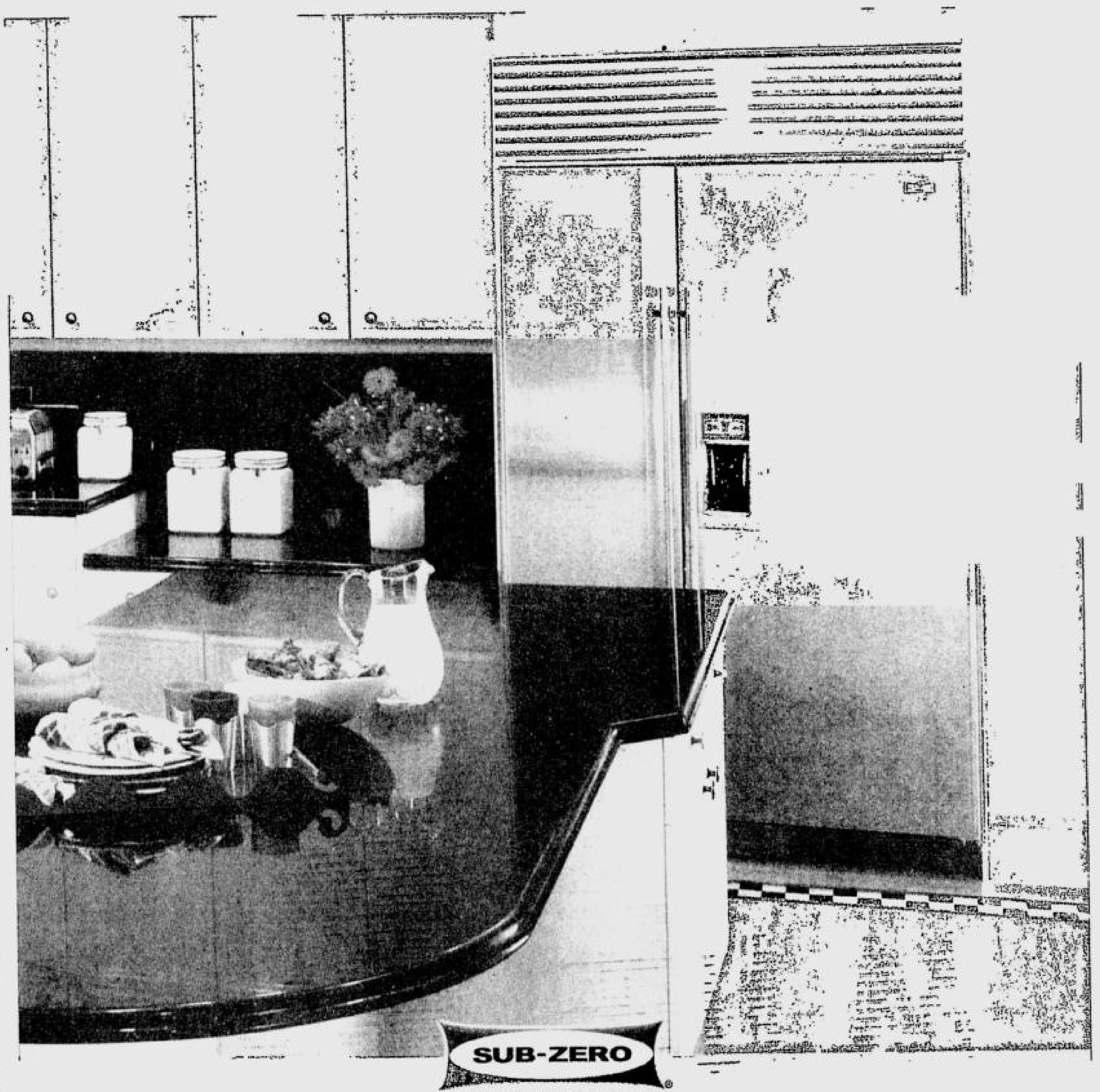

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Gadget & Gizmo Installment Madness

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A yuppie's installment madness

TRUST the young urban professionals (aka. yuppies) to know their stuff. We are talking about their passion and preference for the latest electronic gadgetry. If you think these yuppies talk about stock dividends non-stop, think again. They are just as updated on audio-video as they are on the latest stock market gains.

Great news for the yuppies: BPI Card is holding its 25th Installment Madness dubbed "Gadget & Gizmo Madness" at the Glorietta, Ayala Center in Makati City from June 20 to July 8. The exhibit showcases a wide range of selections featuring leading appliance brands for audio and video equipment as well as white lines, computers, furniture and the latest electronic products.

Participating appliance brands are Panasonic, Aiwa, Philips, LG Collins, Whirlpool, Kolin, J Cordon, Ariston, American Home, JVL, Sony, Concepcion Carrier, Condura, Kelvinator, Sharp, Pioneer, La Germania, JVC and GE.

For those seeking to complete their bachelor's pads, furniture courtesy of HomePlus, Ambiance One, Blims and Amity Sales are available at the Madness.

Cyberdudes itching to upgrade their computers can choose from those offered by Electroworld, Silicon Valley, TCA (The Computer Authority) and Villman.

The latest mobile phones and the best plans can be had at the Globe booth. The latest cameras from Canon, the newest musical electronic instruments from Casio, the top-of-the-line palm pilots from Mobile One and the innovative vending machines of American Vending are worth checking out. Who knows, one of these things might awaken the photographer, musician, organizer or entrepreneur in you!

The participating dealers are Abenson, Automatic Centre, Ansons, Ambassador, Waltermart, Sogo, SM Appliance, and Western.

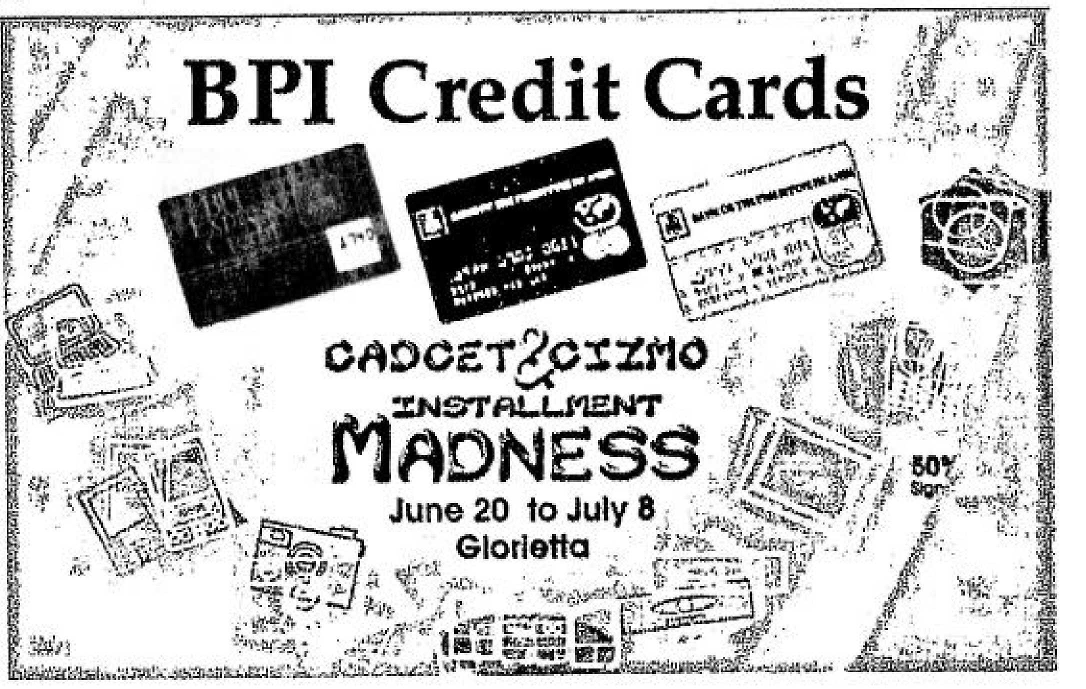
There are promos in store such as the Special Installment Plan (S.I.P.) credit limit which can be tripled at the Madness. There is also zero percent interest on selected items and terms (one can choose from three, six, nine, or 12 month terms). Perfect for cardholders eyeing multiple purchases or a high-end item.

BPI cardholders purchasing their unit at any participating computer dealer can avail of the 50% off on Skyinternet connection on initial payment during the Madness (for new subscribers) and free connection fee for switchers.

They are also encouraged to use the auto-charge payment facility of their Skyinternet subscription which is available at the exhibit area.

The "Gadget & Gizmo Madness" is also extended to all Metro Manila branches of all participating dealers. Convenient indeed for those who want to join the Madness but can't make it to Makati.

Yuppies, this is your Madness and your chance to get those dream gadgets and gizmos that you've long been pining for. All these made easy with your BPI credit card.



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June 20 to July 8
Glorietta

Tough it out with Whirlpool

AS HOMEMAKERS tough out the challenge of economic difficulties besetting even the well-provided household, value for money has become the overriding attitude. Essentially, it has fashioned the way goods and services are sold today, one that offers both affordability and quality.

Whirlpool Home Appliances, a world-class name in the appliance market, assists the consumer in keeping up with the difficult household economics by delivering products that respond appropriately to value for money attitude.

The Eco-Fresh Series, one of Whirlpool's newest lines of refrigerators, captures the essence of affordability and quality. It offers features such as Humidity Crisper and Multi-Air Flow System that eventually distributes temperature for freshest food storage. It also has Built-in-Bio Deodorizer that prevents annoying odor from stored foods. Its Quick Freeze Compartment chills food quickly so its freshness is sealed in for future use. The adjustable Shelves give way to a more flexible food storage system while the See-through Bins allow you to locate food quickly. The Eco-Fresh Series has a reversible door-swing that comes with a special accessory so you can open it whichever way you prefer. And because it is Tropicalized, it does not sweat or rust on the sides, making it a cost-efficient, ultra-durable partner for life.

Whirlpool HOME APPLIANCES
BRINGS QUALITY TO LIFE
CHICKEN NUGGETS
MILK

WRNP 232 (240 liters)

*Also available WRNP 282 (275 liters). Both models are available in Almond and Green.

The Whirlpool Eco-Fresh Refrigerator
Cool under pressure like a Whirlpool woman.

Inner grace. That's what a Whirlpool woman needs to get by in this world. She's able to juggle her time as a career woman and a responsible homemaker as well. And she shines through with a style all her own, with the help of Whirlpool's world-class home partners, like the latest refs from the ***Eco-Fresh Series***. With dependable features for smart homemaking, such as the ***Humidity Control Crisper*** that regulates temperature and a ***built-in Bio Deodorizer*** that keeps food fresh. Plus ***adjustable shelves*** for ample food storage, with ***clear, see-through bins*** to find food quickly. And because it's ***tropicalized***, a feature that prevents "sweating" and rusting, it stays durably tough for years to come.

The ***Eco-Fresh Series*** and the Whirlpool woman. Cool...even under pressure. Truly, partners in bringing quality to life.

Visit or call us!
MANILA : 22 D.Tuazon St., Quezon City • Tel. No. 732-7370 • Fax. No. 732-7375
MAKATI : 3rd Level, Glorietta 4 (inside Automatic Center), Makati City • Tel. Nos. 729-6450 to 52
CEBU : Lot 3 Block 5 Mandaue North Central, Castilex Compound, Cabancalan, Mandaue City, Cebu • Tel. No. (032) 345-3105
WHIRLPOOL PRODUCTS ARE AVAILABLE AT ALL LEADING STORES NATIONWIDE.

INTENSE.
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With the widest range of DVD units and systems,
let your emotions flow with the powerful sights and sounds of Aiwa.

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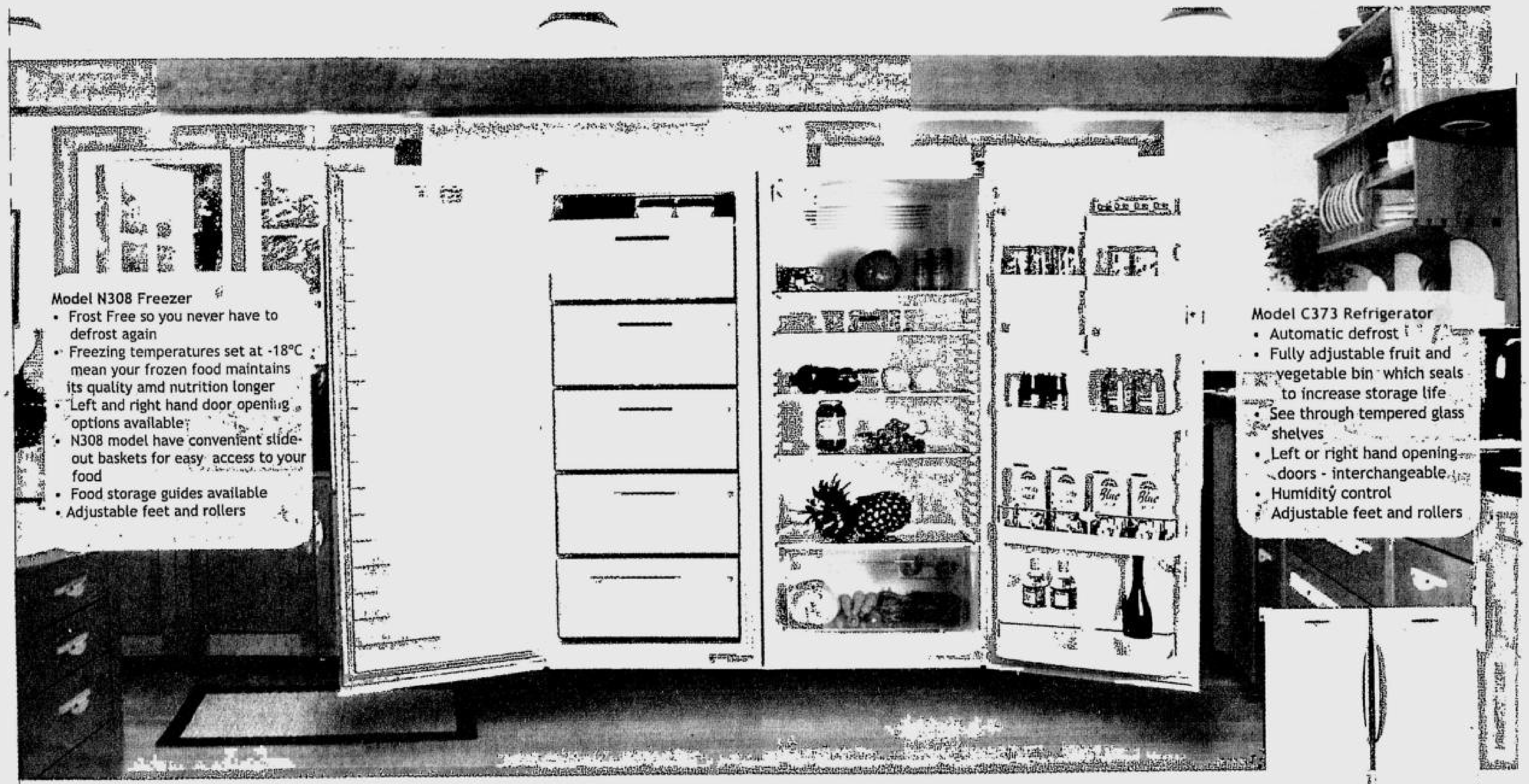
Perfect Match For You.
For Your Kitchen.



Model N308 Freezer
- Frost Free so you never have to defrost again
- Freezing temperatures set at -18°C mean your frozen food maintains its quality amd nutrition longer
- Left and right hand door opening options available
- N308 model have convenient slide-out baskets for easy access to your food
- Food storage guides available
- Adjustable feet and rollers

Model C373 Refrigerator
- Automatic defrost
- Fully adjustable fruit and vegetable bin which seals to increase storage life
- See through tempered glass shelves
- Left or right hand opening doors - interchangeable
- Humidity control
- Adjustable feet and rollers

A Perfect Match

We offer you the ultimate in kitchen style and convenience, the perfect match. Engineered to operate efficiently and maintenance free, our vertical freezer and matching refrigerator are purposely designed to stand side by side, giving them more capacity than most popular side by side refrigerators.

- Worry -Free factory set at 230v/ 60Hz for the Philippines
- 5 Year Rust Free, Cooling System and Compressor Warranty
- CFC & HCFC Free
- Tropicalized design to suit Philippine climate
- Individual compressor for refrigerator and freezer

www.fp.co.nz

For info call tel. no. 564-15-21 Visit the Showrooms at: 5th level SM Megamall • Escolta cor. Nueva St., Manila • SM Appliance Center, SM Southmall • 2nd Flr. Anson's Emporium, Pasay Road, Makati

Fisher&Paykel
Premium Appliances from New Zealand

BPI Card's frequent user privileges

Indeed, BPI Credit Card's fully-charged-for-value quality has produced more rewarding perks

USING your BPI Credit Card has never been as rewarding as this! You've experienced its one-of-a-kind feature of two credit line-in-one card advantage. The first credit line is the ordinary credit line which you use for purchases at the drugstore, gas station or grocery.

The second credit line, called Special Installment Plan (S.I.P.), is popular for letting you purchase high-ticket items. The S.I.P. is the favorite of cardholders attending BPI Card's equally popular Madnesses or installment fairs.

While you charge your purchases to your BPI Credit Card, you also get to claim a prize for using your BPI Credit Card! For as low as 250 points, you can take home a prized selection. This is BPI Credit Cards' Frequent User Privileges 4 and it's bigger and better than ever!

Go higher and you can indulge yourself with choices such as home appliances, office supplies, personal accessories, leather goods, educational materials, gift certificates, toys, sports and travel and annual fee waivers.

Every P200 purchase earns you one point, so the more you charge, the more points you get!

Point accumulation started on your March 2001 statement cut-off date and ends until your January 2002 statement cut-off date.

Indeed, BPI Credit Card's fully-charged-for-value quality has produced more rewarding perks!

BPI Credit Cards
GADGET & GIZMO
INSTALLMENT
MADNESS
June 20 to July 8
Glorietta

BPI Credit Cards
FREQUENT USER
PRIVILEGES

BPI Credit Cards balance transfer: the secret to big savings

GOOD news to BPI credit cardholders. The BPI Credit Cards balance transfer can make the high interest in your other credit cards disappear.

Yes, the fully-charged for value BPI Credit Cards can bring down high card payments. And, there's no trick to it!

With balance transfer, you'll get really low interest to your credit card payments.

Balance transfer is the BPI Credit Cards facility that lets you move your other cards' outstanding balances to your BPI Credit Card's Special Installment Plan (S.I.P.) line.

If you avail of this facility, you'll save a lot compared to the interest rates of other cards. Best of all, the S.I.P. rate has been lowered to a nail-biting 1.68 percent per month for one full year. So, you get even greater savings!

The S.I.P. allows you to choose from three to 24 months of easy payment terms, depending on your spending capacity. Your S.I.P. functions as an additional credit line and it doesn't deplete your regular credit line limit – a unique feature exclusive to all BPI credit cards.

Wh make
high int disappear?
BPI Credit Cards
Find out with
BALANCE
TRANSFER

It's so easy to apply. Just ask for a charge slip from BPI Card and fill up the form. Indicate the desired term and the amount to be transferred. Then attach your other credit card's latest statement of account. Fax the Charge Slip to BPI Card Center Department, 14/F BPI Card Center, 8753 Paseo de Roxas, Makati.

BPI Credit Card's Balance Transfer is applicable for peso outstanding credit card balance only.

So, hurry! Apply now and enjoy huge savings. Save on your interest payments with BPI credit Cards Balance Transfer. Another bargain deal from the leader in credit card finance.

DiGitAL WORLd
Magnify your image!
I like my Panasonic!
Belinda Panelo
What's New by Panasonic
The new Digital World of Panasonic has come into view. And it's clear, bright and vivid.
I like my Panasonic!
F-GEN
Fashion Watch
Free
What's New by Panasonic

Every purchase of any model of 315mm x 410mm (20"), 318mm x 420mm (21") F-GEN and 318mm x 420mm (21") Tau models entitles you to a FREE F-GEN FASHION WATCH!

Present your proof of purchase to the authorized dealer representative where the Panasonic Color TV was purchased. Claim your prize within 60 days from end of promo period.

Promo Duration: June 16 & Aug. 15, 2001

See promo standee for more details.

Per DTI-NCR Permit no. 1766 Series of 2001

www.mepco.panasonic.com.ph

BPI Card back with Travel Madness

THE pioneer in Installment Madness, BPI Card, is back with Travel Madness 2001. This is good news to those longing and planning to make that Great Escape to recreation. With Travel Madness, their ticket to their dream vacation (and destination) will be their BPI Express Credit or BPI MasterCard.

Whether it's fanciful Europe, adventurous North America or mystical Asia, the BPI cardholder can look forward to a wide range of destinations to choose from.

The best part of it all is that the BPI cardholder can pay off the trip in affordable special installment plan (S.I.P.) terms of three, six, nine, 12, 18 or 24 months. The S.I.P. is a built-in feature of the BPI Card. The S.I.P. is also one of two credit lines (the other being the regular credit line for everyday purchases), thereby making the BPI Card fully charged for value.

Even cardholders that prefer to go local—as in a trip to Cebu, Palawan, or Boracay or anywhere within the country—can still avail of Travel Madness 2001 and enjoy the S.I.P. rates.

The following participating travel agencies are ready to accept inquiries: Ark Travel Express, Caravan Travel and Tour, Kenstar Travel, Lucky Travel, Manila International Travel, Philscan Travel and Tour, Rajah Travel Corporation, Reli Tours and Travel, Universal Holidays, World Master Tours and Travel, and The Flight Shop Inc.

Check out the features from the participating agencies.

Travel Madness 2001 is sponsored by Canon Camera, Nextel and Delsey. Avail of these travel-related products from 3 to 24 months through BPI Card's Special Installment Plan (S.I.P.)

Promo runs from March 1 to December 15. Inquiries are also welcome at telephone no. 89-100.

BPI Credit Cards

GADGET & GIZMO INSTALLMENT MADNESS

June 20 to July 8

Glorietta

Whether it's fanciful Europe, adventurous North America or mystical Asia, the BPI cardholder can look forward to a wide range of destinations to choose from

Macau
Travel Madness 2001

Macau tours via BPI credit card

"Merry Macau" is the latest travel sales pitch of the BPI credit card in cooperation wit the Macau Government Tourist Office (MGTO). For the first time, Macau is featured as one of most sought-after vacation destinations via BPI's "Travel Madness Promotions" which runs until December 15.

With BPI's lowest monthly installment of US$13.05 (about P640) for 24 months, or a straight payment of US$222.45 per person, guests can take a tour of the historical Portuguese-Chinese territory now known as Macau Special Administrative Region.

When you visit the BPI Madness in Glorietta, the Macau travel package is available at the BPI Booth through Worldmaster Tours and Travel.

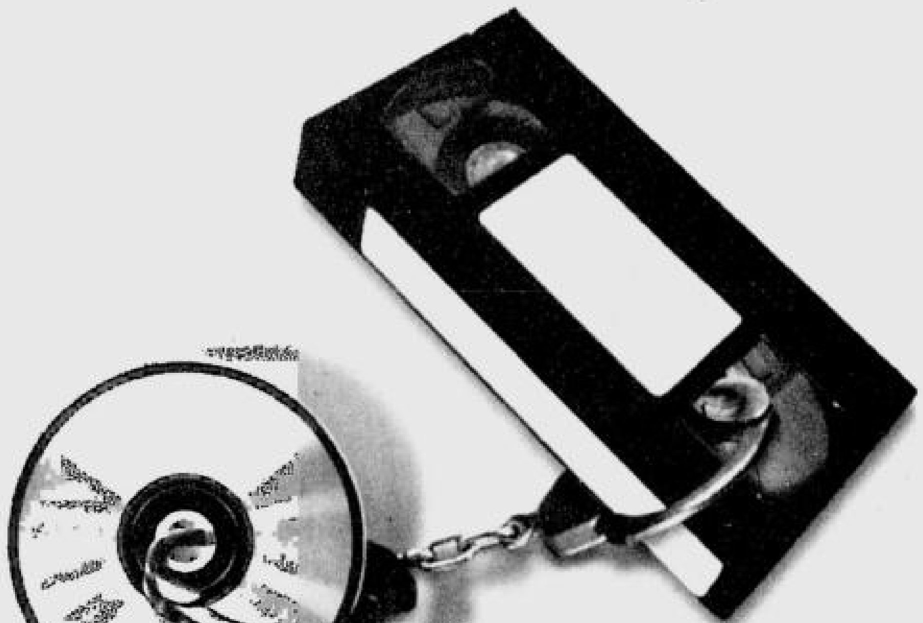
Not only that, when you make any purchase at the exhibit area with your BPI credit card, you get the chance to win a free tour package to Macau via Air Macau. Enjoy the luxury of Royal Hotel for 4 days and 3 nights, half day city tour and airport transfer, all free-of-charge.

That's real madness!

National
National
National

Ambiance One
fine furniture

KOLIN
KOLIN
KOLIN



LG has captured two video technologies in one machine.

Introducing LG Fusion. A revolutionary machine that integrates a VCD player and a 6-head Hi-Fi VCR. No need to decide which format to choose anymore. Copy VCDs to VHS at a push of a button to add to your home video library. And when you're ready to sing, it even has a karaoke function with key controls and a score display. Check it out at your favorite appliance store and see how fast it ends up on your most wanted list.

V fusion VCD + VHS Player

LG Digitally yours

LG Collins Electronics Manila No. 15 F. Legaspi St., Maybunga, Pasig City Tel. Nos. 641-4181 up to 85. Fax 640-0460. Customer Information Center: 640-2525

BPI Credit Cards
GADGET & GIZMO INSTALLMENT MADNESS
June 20 to July 8
Glorietta

BPI Credit Cards'
AUTO CHARGE

Settling bills the BPI Credit Card way

BUSINESS is always urgent. Whether you're attending to business at home or in the office, time is of the essence. When the bills arrive one by one, chances are, you'd be hard-pressed to squeeze in the time to pay for each one of them. Unfortunately, each bill requires a different payment center. Cellular phone, pager, cable TV and internet bills require immediate attention, as these are likewise important in going about your daily life.

So how do you pay for all these bills? BPI Credit Card's Auto Charge should make paying your bills a lot easier than you'd ever imagine. For starters, you can forget about excusing yourself from the office just to line up at different payment centers in the city. You can also say 'good riddance' to writing multiple cheques.

BPI Credit Card's Auto Charge brings you the convenience of settling your bills through your BPI Express Credit or MasterCard.

Doing so is very easy. You only have to enroll your mobile phone, pager, cable TV or internet service account number with BPI Card which has enrollment forms for you to complete.

Once enrolled in the Auto Charge facility, you will no longer be receiving your monthly statement of account from Jaspage, Skycable, Easycall and Powerpage. The following utility companies, on the other hand, will still be sending you your monthly statement of account: Globe, Sky Internet, Pacific Internet, Home Cable, Infocom, and Nextel.

BPI Credit Card's Auto Charge facility helps you get things done with its convenience and value-laden service.

25th BPI Installment Madness
Glorietta, Ayala Center, Makati
June 20 to July 8, 2001

MANUFACTURERS

Appliances
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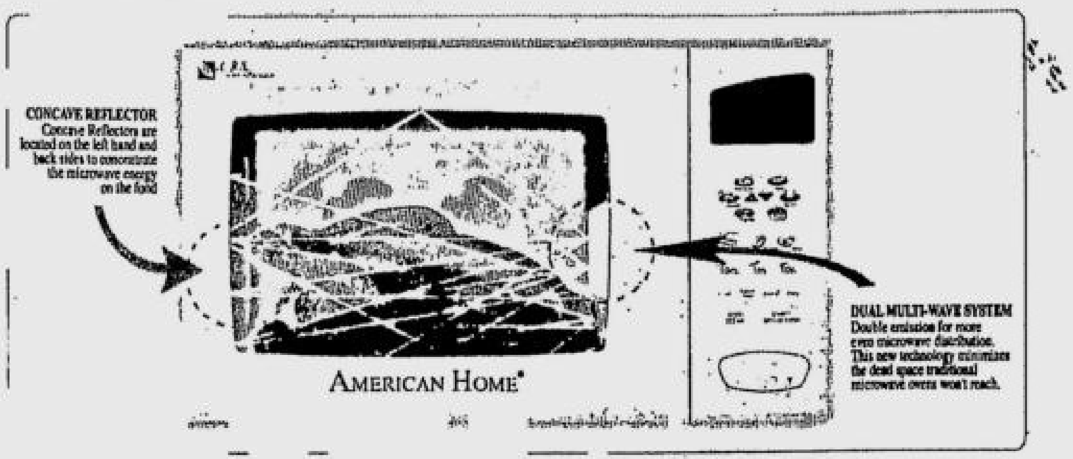
The new wave in microwaves


CONCAVE REFLECTOR
Concave Reflectors are located on the left hand and back sides to concentrate the microwave energy on the food
AMERICAN HOME
DUAL MULTI-WAVE SYSTEM
Double emission for more even microwave distribution. This new technology minimizes the dead space traditional microwave ovens won't reach.

DOES your microwave leave you out in the cold? Always wondering why you get unevenly cooked meals? Does cooking a single dish take you forever? Let's face it. Not all microwaves are created equal. Some simply cannot do the job.

It's a good thing there's American Home microwave oven, a revolutionary product that guarantees faster and easier cooking at a touch of a button.

American Home introduces the latest in microwave technology—Concave Reflex System or CRS—a new heating method that uses dual multi-waves and concave reflectors not found in any other brand.

This is how it works, the concave reflectors act as mirrors that bounce the microwave energy inside the oven. Thus, the angle of the waves constantly changes. This makes it possible for the oven to effectively maximize the distribution of energy to cover a large area of the food surface in a shorter period of time. Giving you hot and evenly cooked meals at a snap of a finger.

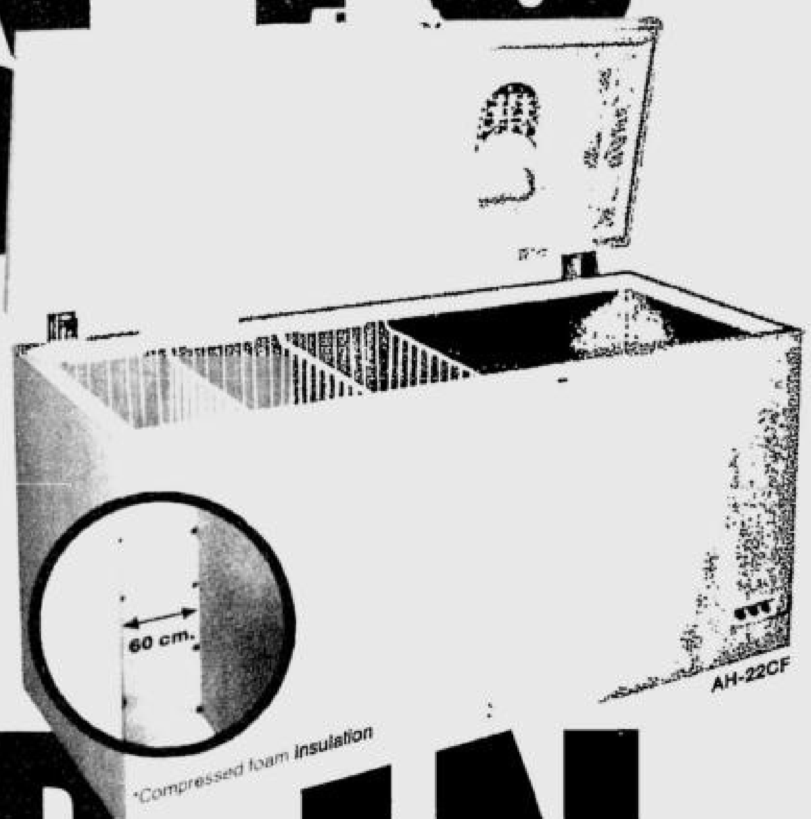
The Dual Multi-Wave System of American Home evenly distributes heat above and below the food, virtually eliminating the dead space traditional microwave ovens cannot reach. This new technology is 56 percent more effective in minimizing vertical temperature variations and 70 percent better in reducing horizontal variation compared to other models.

Because of these, American Home dramatically cuts cooking time by as much as 34 percent which means big savings on electricity.

Plus, each unit is manufactured under strict US quality standards and comes with the following features: multi-power levels; weight and time defrost (three categories): pre-programmed one-touch cooking; clock and kitchen timer feature; and electronic child safety.

So allow yourself to experience American Home's new optional cooking system. With a simple push of a button, the magic of advanced technology, quality, durability and convenience comes alive in your very kitchen.

THICKER SKIN TO KEEP THE COLD IN



DS CERTIFIED
Quality System and Environmental Management System
DS/EN ISO 9002
DS/EN ISO 14001
DANAK

The American Home Commercial Chest Freezer. With thicker insulation - ensuring efficient cooling at lower energy cost.

You want the coolest possible performance – at the least possible dent on your power bill. The American Home Commercial Chest Freezer does just that, however you use it – whether it's for home or commercial use – and you also get:

- **Tropicalized operation – built especially for the Philippine climate.** No condensation. No rust. No moisture.
- Thicker insulation (no less than 60 cm.*) and sloping panel to ease compressor stress (ensuring a lower energy consumption and easier operation).
- Coldness comes from top and goes down to the bottom – ensuring even freezing up and down.
- Sizes from 8cu ft. to 22cu ft. available – all with a five-year warranty on the compressor.

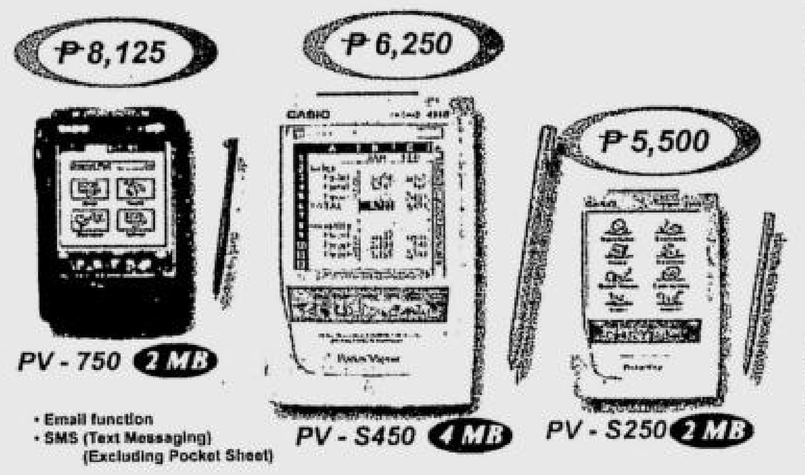
Best of all, you get quality performance – more cold for your cash – when you go with American Home.

Also available:

AH-19CF
AH-17CF
AH-13CF
AH-8CF

AMERICAN HOME®
Simply The Best

For inquiries, contact us at: 374-4567 to 74 or www.americanhomeappliances.com



CASIO®

The Slim & Stylish Data Management Tool

Includes Cradle & Software CD*

*PC-sync, Quick Data Copy Pocket Sheet Sync, PV Application manager

Pocket Viewer

Mid-Year Bonus!

Get a gift each time you buy! Here's how:

For every purchase of Casio Pocket Viewer PV-S250, PV-S450 and PV-750 PLUS, customer gets a Gift Coupon inside the product pack which entitles him to a free item of his choice from the selection above.

Claim gift by showing coupon & original invoice to:
BUSINESS PLUS MARKETING
Suite 301– 304 AIC Gold Tower
Emerald Ave.,Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Look for: Ms. GRACE SARCIA
Mon–Sat 10AM to 12 Noon; 2 to 5:30PM

Promo Period. May 30-July 31, 2001
Redemption period is up to Sept. 30, 2001
PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO. 1518 Series of 2001

- Email function
- SMS (Text Messaging) (Excluding Pocket Sheet)

PC – sync
Compatible with Windows 2000/98/95/ME/NT Workstation 4.0
Synchronize data with your personal computer to make you always have the latest version with you Simply slip the Pocket Viewer into the cradle that comes with it and press a button for quick and easy date synchronization

Outlook sync
Synchronize Software for use with Microsoft® Outlook® 97/98/2000 Free download from the WEB

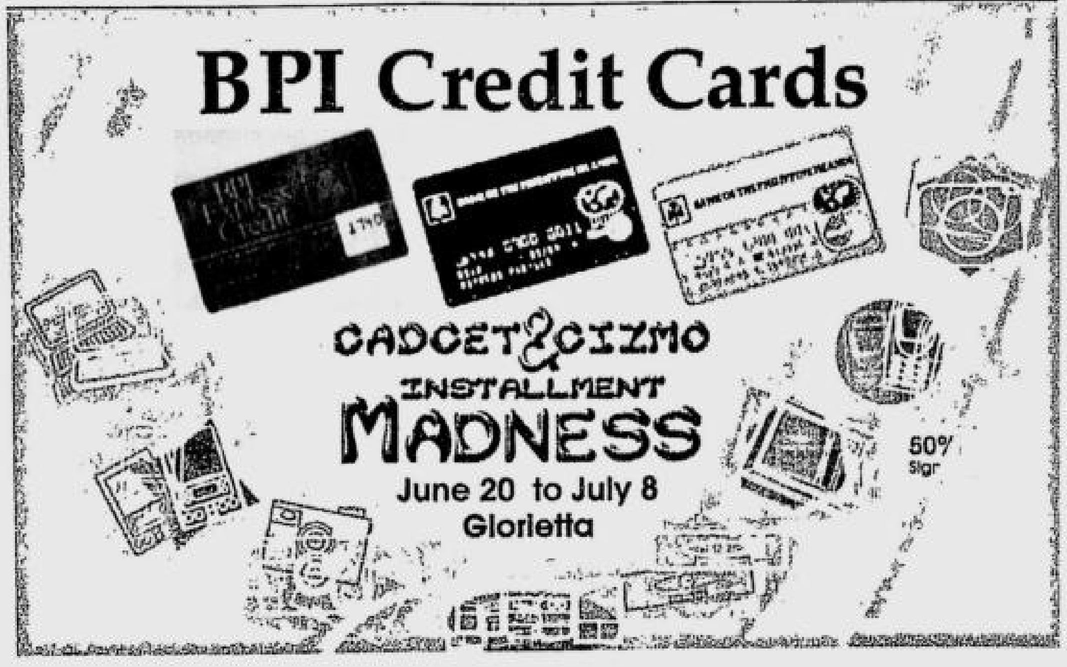
PIM (Personal Information Manager)
- Scheduler
- Reminder
- Contacts
- To Do
- Expense
- Memo
- Quick-Memo

Pocket Sheet Sync for Microsoft Excel
You can build your own spreadsheets from scratch, and even synchronize with MS Excel data on your computer

Action Control
Pocket Viewer provides quick and easy operation with a flick of your thumb Rotate the Action Control to select a menu optionand them press to execute. Access the information you need in an instant¹.

AVAILABLE AT:
WESTERN - Grand Central • Kalookan • Citimall Parañaque • SM Mega Mall • P. Tuazon • Farmer's Plaza • Ever Gotesco - Commonwealth • GLOBATRONICS - Recto • Filinvest Alabang • Sta. Rosa

FOR INQUIRIES CALL: Business 637-6420 to 22 Email: westinfo@mozcom.com Fax. 637-6419
Suite 301-304, AIC Gold Tower, Emerald Ave. Ortigas Center, Pasig City, Phils.



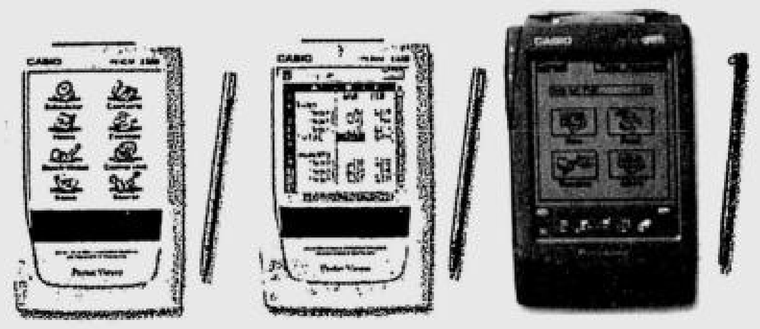
Warner Home Video ties up with video hardware manufacturers and BPI

WARNER Home Video Phils. Proudly announces its tie-up with various hardware manufacturers. You get more value when you purchase a DVD player from selected brands during this BPI Appliance Madness Event. For every purchase of a DVD player from selected brands, get a free discount coupon worth P100 or P50 for your purchase of a DVD movie disc from Warner Home Video. Simply present the discount coupon at any redemption center and you're off to digital quality home entertainment.

DVD or digital video disc allows viewers to enjoy special features available in the disc. It incorporates the most obvious superior digital sound and picture quality. DVD showcases added features such as behind-the-scenes documentary, filmography of the cast, interactive menus and the original theatrical trailer. The state-of-the-art format has been edging out the VHS as the standard mode of family home video viewing since its introduction in the US market less than five years ago.

Being a pioneer in the DVD technology, Warner Home Video boasts some of its top selling titles including "The Matrix," "The Perfect Storm," "Romeo Must Die," "Lethal Weapon 4," "Deep Blue Sea" and "The Green Mile."

> Simply present the discount coupon at any redemption center and you're off to digital quality home entertainment



Casio Pocket Viewer puts IT power all in your hands

HAVE the information, wield the power. In this age of tech-savvy, fast, sophisticated and multi-skilled individuals, you need the Casio Pocket Viewer personal data managers to keep you always ahead. Top-of-the-line from the Casio Pocket Viewers are PV-S450, PV-S250 and PV-750 Plus, the slim and stylish data management tools. All offer PC-synchronization, enabling you to bring all the data you need from your PC, practically wherever you go. All three models also boast of Microsoft Outlook 97/98/2000 Synchronization, and Pocket Sheet Sync for Microsoft Excel 95/97/2000, giving you access to spreadsheet capabilities while on the go. Other superb features are quick data copy from your PC to your Pocket Viewer, and PIM (Personal Information Manager) features: Scheduler, Reminder, To Do, Contacts, Expense, and Quick-Memo. All these are possible quick and easy, with the Action Control on the side of the Pocket Viewer for no-sweat operation. The PV-750 Plus gives you not just data management at your fingertips but Internet connectivity as well. Send and receive quick and easy e-mail via the infrared wireless hook-up through a GSM phone. Also send and receive text messages through its SMS function.

Casio Pocket Viewers are available at all Western Marketing and Globatronics outlets. Get your Pocket Viewer now from the Globatronics booth at this year's BPI Installment Madness at Glorietta from June 22 to July 8, or call Business Plus Marketing at tel. no. 637-6420 to 22 for product inquiries.

Built-in Appliances
by laGermania

Versatile
Functional
Stylish

The la Germania Built-in appliances
are all about elegance and performance.
Sleek Cook Tops, Versitile Ovens.
and Powerful Range Hoods.

It gives you room to design
your kitchen the way you want it
and cook food the way you desire.

Built-in appliances from la Germania.
The perfect kitchen companion.

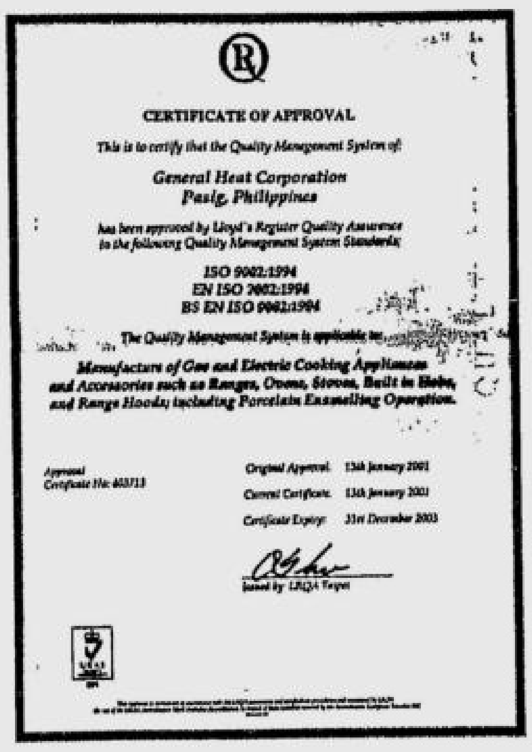
laGERMANIA
Don't settle for anything less

Tel. Nos. 564-1521 to 28
Available at all leading appliance stores nationwide.

Ranges — Stoves — Range Hoods — Cook tops — Built-in Ovens — Washing Machines

MANAGEMENT EXCELLENCE

THE QUALITY Management of General Heat Corporation, manufacturer of gas and electric cooking appliances, particularly La Germania, and accessories such as ranges, ovens, stoves, built-in hobs and rangehoods, including porcelain enameling operations has been recognized and approved by Lloyd's Register Quality Assurance to the following Quality Management System Standards: ISO 9002; 1994; EN ISO 9002:11994; BSEN ISO 9002:1994.



CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL

This is to certify that the Quality Management System of:

General Heat Corporation
Pasig, Philippines

has been approved by Lloyd's Register Quality Assurance to the following Quality Management System Standards:

ISO 9002:1994
EN ISO 9002:1994
BS EN ISO 9002:1994

The Quality Management System is applicable to:

Manufacture of Gas and Electric Cooking Appliances and Accessories such as Ranges, Ovens, Stoves, Built in Hobs, and Range Hoods; including Porcelain Enamelling Operation.

Approval Certificate No: 403713

Original Approval:	13th January 2001
Current Certificate:	13th January 2001
Certificate Expiry:	31st December 2003

Issued by: LRQA Taipei

SPECIAL PROJECT

BPI Credit Cards
GADGET & GIZMO INSTALLMENT MADNESS
June 20 to July 8, Glorietta

SkyInternet's attractive offer at BPI Installment Madness

BPI Express Credit, BPI MasterCard and SkyInternet bring good news to its cardholders and customers who have been planning to purchase one or even several personal computers for their home or office. BPI Express Credit and BPI MasterCard will offer an installment scheme from zero to 24 months for computers purchased during BPI's Installment Madness. BPI cardholders that are not current SkyInternet subscribers may avail of the 50 percent off the initial payment on the SkyInternet Starter and Solo packages while the Installment Madness event runs from June 15 to July 8. In addition, SkyInternet will offer free connection worth P825 for switchers from other ISPs and 50 percent off the connection fee for new subscribers.

Fatima Tobias, BPI Special Projects and Event head revealed that computers are one of the most sellable items sold during every BPI Madness Event because of the attractive installment plans offered to cardholders. With the additional incentives offered by SkyInternet, new computers would certainly become an attractive purchase. Ria Nunez, group product manager for SkyInternet and ZPDee said, "SkyInternet wants to make it really easy and convenient for those who are buying a new computer. Once you purchase your computer you can immediately sign up for with SkyInternet at privileged rates."

For added convenience, all BPI cardholders that avail of the SkyInternet promo during the event will be provided with BPI's auto-payment facility for payments of their SkyInternet subscription. For more details, please see print ads, flyers and posters. You may also log on to www.skyinet.net.

It's raining 0% at Electroworld

BPI Installment Madness is not complete without computers, palmtops and IT devices; more so now that BPI madness goes Gadgets and Gizmos. This 25th BPI Madness, Electroworld is here to give yuppies, dads, kids and moms the latest gadgets to liven up their e-lives.

When has the news of having zero been so good that it has become so irresistible? At Electroworld, from June 20 to July 8, zero is the best offer to grab. We have over sixty products on zero percent interest. For everything you need, there is an item absolutely at no interest waiting for you.

Desktop computer – high speed, top performance Acetech Pentium III 1 GHz, 30 GB hard drive desktop computer with internal DVD ROM/CD writer for P49,995 at zero percent interest for three months.

Notebooks – Mitac laptop starting price at P49,995 on zero interest.

Handheld devices – the hottest selling Palm M100 handheld at P6,500 on zero percent interest for three months. Plus, this comes with a free leather case.

Printer – get an HP 930c printer at P7,469 also on zero percent interest for three months. Or for P5,995 at no interest for three months get a Canon 1000SP and Canon N340P scanner.

CD writer – Artec 8x4x32 internal CD writer at zero percent interest for six months.

Monitors – LG Flatron monitor at a new low price plus get it at no interest for six months.

Fax machines – brother thermal and plain paper faxes at zero percent.

Anything more?

Buy from our booth and get freebies like DVDs, beanbags, software and exclusive promos at Electroworld, your largest business store network.

So visit us at the Ayala Mall (in front of Marks & Spencer and Cinderella; Electroworld booth behind Globe booth) from June 20 to July 8 to avail of the hottest discounts and promos only at Electroworld. For inquiries, e-mail us at electroworld@abscor.com.ph or visit our website www.electroworld.com.ph.

ELECTROWORLD

Gadgets & Gizmos + a lot of Zero%

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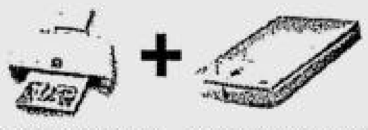

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SM MEGAMALL 633-1624 to 25
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BPI Express Credit
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VISIT US AT:

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FASHAY MALL
WE ARE HERE
AYALA MALL

Visual may vary from actual item Prices & specification may change without prior notice *Computed using BPI 24 months rates

COME & VISIT OUR ONGOING EXHIBIT AT THE 25TH BPI INSTALLMENT MADNESS AT THE GLORIETTA, AYALA CENTER, MAKATI

JVC

21" FOR 21" (53.34cms.)

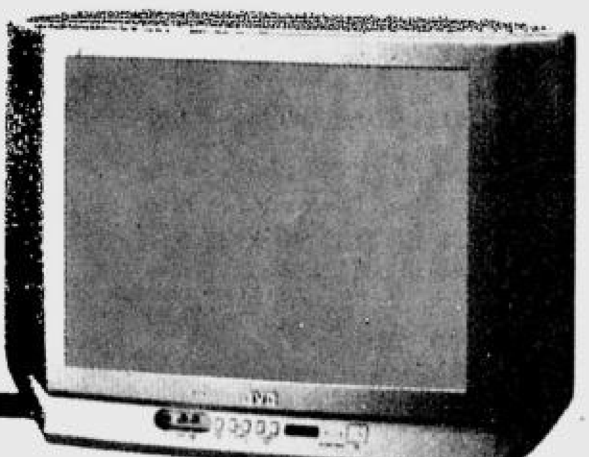
MID-YEAR BONUS

JVC IS GIVING AWAY 21 PCS. IBM PERSONAL COMPUTERS & 21 PCS. PALM-TOP PORTABLE COMPUTERS TO THOSE LUCKY BUYERS OF JVC AV-21F3PX AND AV-21F1P COLOUR TELEVISION

HOW TO JOIN?
For every single purchase of 21 inch CTV Model AV-21F1P and AV-21F3PX customer will get ONE (1) JVC 21 for 21" MID-YEAR BONUS raffle coupon on which he/she must fill in his/her NAME, ADDRESS, TELEPHONE CONTACT NUMBERS, OUTLET/DEALER, SALES PERSON, INVOICE NUMBER and affix signature. Drop the coupon in it's respective Drop Boxes in participating JVC Dealers and Appliance Dealers

RULES:
1. Promo duration: This promotion will start on June 1, 2001 and will end on July 31, 2001.
2. The RAFFLE DRAW will be held on August 31, 2001 at JVC head office Jacinta Bldg. II, EDSA, Brgy. Guadalupe Nuevo, Makati City from 1:00 PM to 4:00PM with the presence of DTI and JVC officials.
3. Last day of submission of entries will be on July 31, 2001.
4. 42 winners (21 IBM Personal Computers and 21 Palm Top Portable Computers).
5. Allocation of Prizes: a. 21 winners of IBM PERSONAL COMPUTERS (NATIONWIDE) b. 21 winners of PALM TOP PORTABLE COMPUTERS (NATIONWIDE)
6. Prizes are not convertible to cash. If a name wins more than one, he gets the bigger prize. Participants can only win once.
7. Winners shall be asked to present their raffle stub any of the following identification papers (School ID/Company ID/Drivers License/Passport, and receipt of their purchase).
8. Employees of JVC and participating dealer / outlets, including relatives up to second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the promo.
9. Winners will be announced via print ads and will be notified by registered mail as to where he/she/ can claim the prize. Prizes must be claimed within 60 days from receipt of notification at Jacinta Bldg., Brgy. Guadalupe, Makati City. Provincial winners can claim prizes at the nearest provincial office specified in the registered notice.
10. All prizes exceeding to TEN THOUSAND PESOS ARE Tax Free.

WIN 21 PCS. IBM PERSONAL COMPUTERS & 21 PCS. PALM-TOP PORTABLE COMPUTERS



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PER DTI NCR PERMIT NO. 0761 SERIES OF 2001

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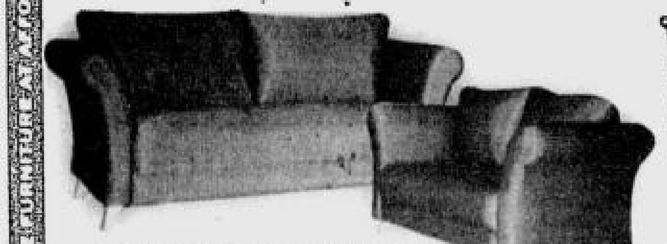
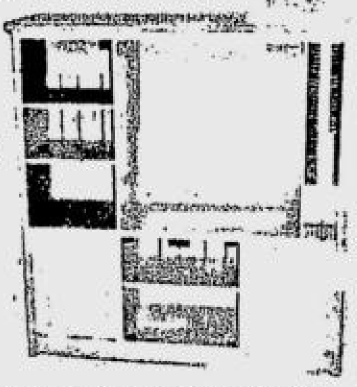
HOME Plus
FURNITURE
A DIVISION OF ABENSON

BPI
GADGET & GIZMO
INSTALLMENT
MADNESS

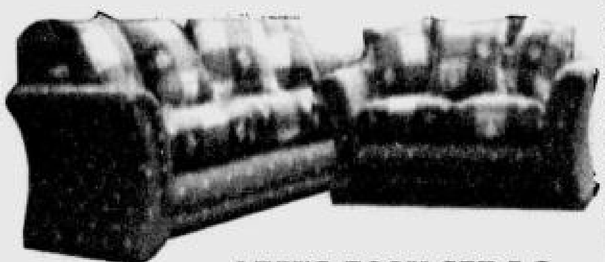


LIVING ROOM SET 3-2
BASE PRICE ₱12500 CARD ₱2084/mo.



***ENTERTAINMENT CENTER**
BASE PRICE ₱5495 CARD ₱916/mo.

***ENTERTAINMENT CENTER**
BASE PRICE ₱7495 CARD ₱1250/mo.



LIVING ROOM SET 3-2
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BACK CABINET
BASE PRICE ₱5995 CARD ₱1000/mo.

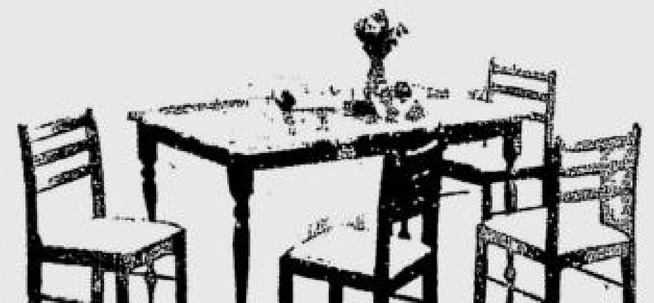
ROCKING CHAIR w/ OTTOMAN
₱4795

SIDE TABLE
₱2150

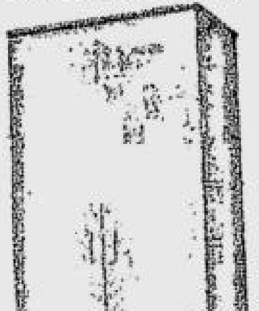
CENTER TABLE
₱2720

***BOOKCASE**
₱2095

BEAN BAG
₱795
Reduced Rates Only

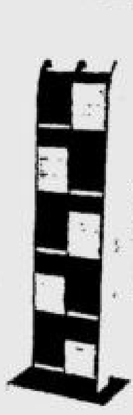


***DINING SET, 4-SEATER**
BASE PRICE ₱5995 CARD ₱1000/mo.



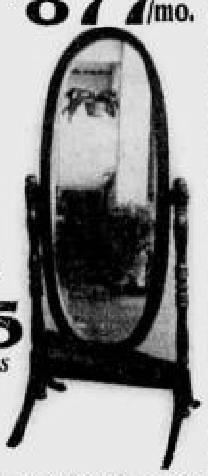
WARDROBE CABINET
BASE PRICE ₱5260 CARD ₱877/mo.

***CD RACK**
₱765
Reduced Rates Only



***CD RACK**
₱545
Reduced Rates Only

STAND MIRROR
₱1095
Reduced Rates Only



PRICES ARE BASED ON 6-MONTHS 0% INTEREST TERMS

SPECIAL INSTALLMENT PLAN HAS A MINIMUM PURCHASE OF P5,000. Terms Available: 3, 6, 9, 12 & 24 Months Reduced Rates

*All accessories featured are not included

E-mail: abshmkt@the.net.ph
Per DTI-NCR Permit#1930, series of 2001
Promo Period: June 20 to July 8, 2001

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Now with 18 branches to serve you

BPI Credit Cards

GADGET & GIZMO
INSTALLMENT
MADNESS
June 20 to July 8
Glorietta

Bridal gift registry at Abenson

GOOD news for soon-to-be couples. While you can avail of the latest in home appliances at Abenson through BPI Gadget and Gizmo Installment Madness, the biggest appliance network is also offering the Bridal Gift Registry services for free.

Abenson's Bridal Registry is the most convenient way of gift selection and shopping. It's convenient for the engaged couples, as well as their guests. It's one sure way of making the wedding day extra special.

For the couples, Abenson gives you an exciting experience of choosing the gifts you want and need. For your relatives and friends, Abenson saves them the time spent for shopping around and looking for bridal gifts.

A wide selection of appliances awaits you, ranging from audio-video to home appliances, and small appliances to home furnishing. All at affordable prices.

All you have to do is visit an Abenson either at Robinsons Galleria or Shangri-La (both located at the basement area) and enjoy selecting gifts as you enter a new and exciting life; a life with a partner; and a life of comfort with the latest in appliance technology. We will help you start your married life at easy and affordable ways.

No more gift duplications or receiving the gifts you already have. Through Abenson's Bridal Gift Registry, you are sure to start things right. Simply call Abenson-Galleria at 632-9101 to 05 or Abenson-Shangri-La at 638-8017 to 19 and look for the branch officers who will serve as your bridal consultants. What's more, you can get a lifetime free membership on Abenson Value Club by simply registering.

Home Plus goes mad with gadgets and gizmos

HOME Plus is where the fun is. And with the onslaught of the changing climate, Home Plus and BPI Express Credit are making indoor activities extra rewarding. This is true especially for BPI cardholders. Dubbed as BPI Gadget and Gizmo Installment Madness, you can avail of fine furniture pieces at low interest rates on 3,6,8,9,12,18 and 24 months based on sale prices. That's definitely a breeze through the heavy clouds.

Now you can beat the rainy day blues with a cozy sofa to perk up the living room. A nice, warm soup is perfect on a wooden dining table. And the sound of raindrops falling on the roof makes sleeping on your comfy bed a priceless experience. These are just some of the joys of home furnishings.

As always, Home Plus' tie-up with BPI Madness is a highly anticipated event for every furniture enthusiasts. You can visit Home Plus' booth at Edsa Cupola Glorietta until July 8 and choose from the living room, dining, kitchen, bedroom and office furniture items that are up for gorgeous grabs. Or visit any of Home Plus' outlets inside Abenson branches in Metro Manila and the adjoining provinces. For more information, email at abshmkt@the.net.ph or call 812-9425.

Canon

Ang bago kong BF hindi plastic!

PRIMA BF-800

Glass ang lens nito hindi plastic so it takes sharper clearer pictures. And this camera is loaded with advanced features ... very stylish pa ang porma

Kaya at its price siguradong magkakasundo kami ng BF ko

REGULAR PRICE: P3,995
PROMO PRICE ₱1,995
comes with a free [illegible] Kodak MAX 400-36 exp. 135mm film, [illegible]

Promo Period: May [illegible] Aug 20, 2001
[illegible]

Visit the Canon Booth
at 25th BPI Installment Madness
for great deals at 0% or reduced interest
June 20–July 8, 2001 Ayala Mall, Glorietta
or participating off-site centers

28mm wide-angle lens • Big view finder • Powerful 3-way flash • Red-eye reduction • Self-timer • Built-in lens cover

BE PROTECTED!
Always demand for the CANON WARRANTY CARD issued by SUPER EAST ASIA ENTERPRISES, INC

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AVAILABLE AT BETTER CAMERA SHOPS AND DEPARTMENT STORES NATIONWIDE

It's the good life with BPI Card's 25th Madness

Electronics enthusiasts can likewise look forward to more indulgences at the Madness

BACK then, try saying "gadget" and "gizmo" in one breath and you'd make everybody queasy. After all, the last thing people want is to be reminded of household chores and everything else that needs fixing. Now that's history. These days, those two words conjure modern day thrills and conveniences that make life worth living and enjoying.

That is exactly what BPI Card is doing with its 25th appliance installment fair dubbed "Gadget & Gizmo Madness" at the Glorietta, Ayala Center, Makati City from June 20 to July 28.

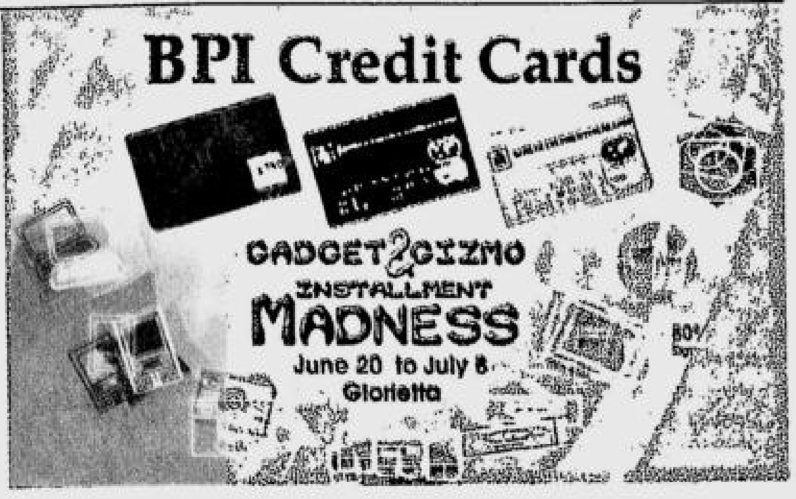
The Madness showcases a wide range of selections from leading appliance brands for audio and video equipment as well as white lines, computers, furniture and top-of-the-line electronic products that are bound to excite and satisfy those that enjoy the good life and know how—and where—to get their hard-earned money's worth.

The participating appliance brands are Panasonic, Aiwa, Philips, LG Collins, Whirlpool, Kolin, J Cordon, Ariston, American Home, JVL, Sony, Concepcion Carrier, Condura, Kelvinator, Sharp, Pioneer, La Germania, JVC, and GE. The furniture brands are HomePlus, Ambiance One, Blims, and Amity Sales.

Computers are courtesy of Electroworld, TCA (The Computer Authority), Villman, and Silicon Valley. BPI cardholders purchasing a computer unit from the aforementioned participants can avail of the 50% discount on Skyinternet's initial payment during the fair (for new subscribers) and free connection fee for switchers.

Electronics enthusiasts can likewise look forward to more indulgences at the Madness. Those contemplating on getting new mobile phones can make their choices with Globe. Into photography? The Canon booth will satisfy shutterbugs everywhere. Music-makers and music-lovers will surely be captivated by Casio's electronic musical instruments. Mobile One provides palm pilots and other electronic organizers for the busy executives. For those with entrepreneurial spirits, American Vending offers vending machines in its line-up.

The participating dealers are Abenson, Automatic Centre, Ansons, Ambassador, Waltermart, Sogo, SM Appliance, and Western.



BPI cardholders availing of the Gadget & Gizmo Madness can expect the promotional Special Installment Plan Limit wherein regular credit limits can be tripled. There is also zero percent interest on selected items and selected terms from three, six, nine, or 12 months.

The Madness is once again extended to all Metro Manila branches of all participating dealers. Great news indeed to those that want to make their purchases closer to home. Now what could be more convenient than that?

Count on the BPI Gadget & Gizmo Madness to make life more fun and enjoyable with its value-for-money offerings. It's the good life within reach!

Have BPI card, will shop

THERE is the yuppie that parties a lot after office hours. Then there's the yuppie that prefers home and hearth, enjoying the company of his creature comforts and joys. His idea of unwinding is watching his favorite VHS tape or listening to his CDs.

Then comes the idea that he has to upgrade his appliances. Choice VHS are increasingly becoming hard to come by, so a DVD player must be had. The one-tray CD player must now carry a Mini Disc facility.

The question is: how do you make replacements without making a dent on your wallet? The answer lies in BPI Card's 25th Installment Madness on June 20 to July 8. The event is called "Gadget & Gizmo Madness" and it takes place at the Glorietta Ayala Center, Makati City.

At the "Gadget & Gizmo Madness", exciting top-of-the-line audio-video and home appliances, electronic gadgetry, and furniture are on sale at easy installment terms of three, six, nine, or 12 months. If our yuppie plans multi-purchases, then the Promotional S.I.P. Limit should do the trick. For the Madness, the regular credit limit can be increased three times.

The top appliance brands are here: Panasonic, JVL, Aiwa, Sony, Philips, Concepcion Carrier, Condura, Kelvinator, LG Collins, Sharp, Whirlpool, Pioneer, Kolin, La Germania, J Cordon, JVC, Ariston, GE and American Home. Furniture come courtesy of HomePlus, Ambiance One, Blims and Amity Sales.

Abenson, Automatic Centre, Ansons, Ambassador, Western, SM Appliance, Sogo and Waltermart are the event's participating dealers

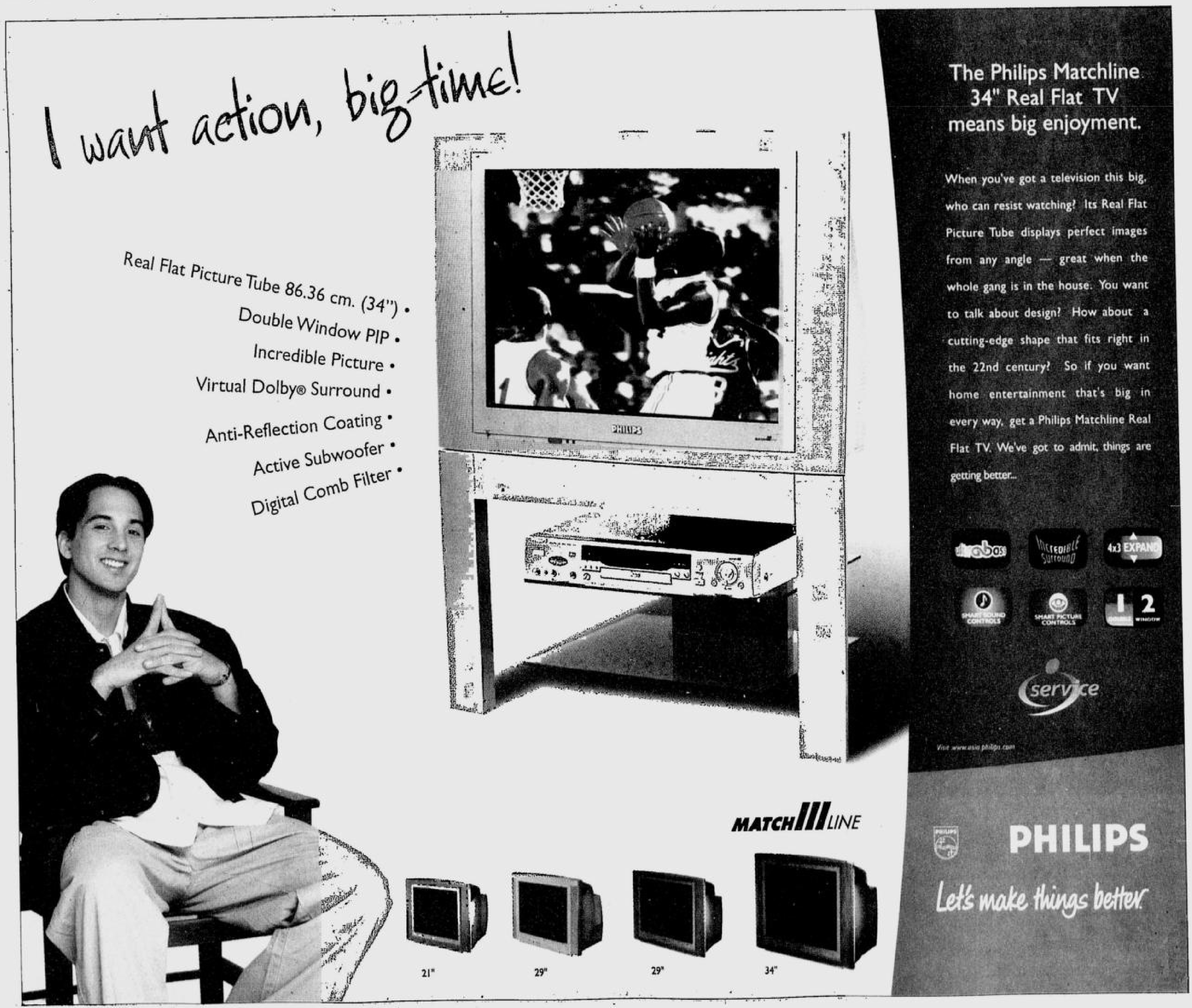
Electroworld, Silicon Valley, TCA (The Computer Authority) and Villman offer computers. BPI cardholders purchasing their computer units at any of these computer dealers can avail of the 50% off on Skyinternet on initial payment during the Madness (for new subscribers) and free connection fee for switchers.

There's also something for every yuppie loco over gizmos. At the Madness, those looking for new Globe Handyphones can check out the booth. Music-makers on the sly will feast on Casio's musical offerings while Canon's cameras and equipment will click with those into photography. Mobile One's palm pilots and other electronic conveniences are also in store. For the entrepreneur in everyone, try American Vending's vending machines.

Abenson, Automatic Centre, Ansons, Ambassador, Western, SM Appliance, Sogo and Waltermart are the event's participating dealers. The promo is extended to all Metro Manila branches of all the participating dealers.

For the young go-getters that don't have their own BPI credit cards, they can expect fast processing of a BPI Express Start application opened at the BPI Express Banking Center, Glorietta.

Indeed, only BPI Card can make those audio-video dreams come true—at very easy installment terms at the "Gadget & Gizmo Madness."

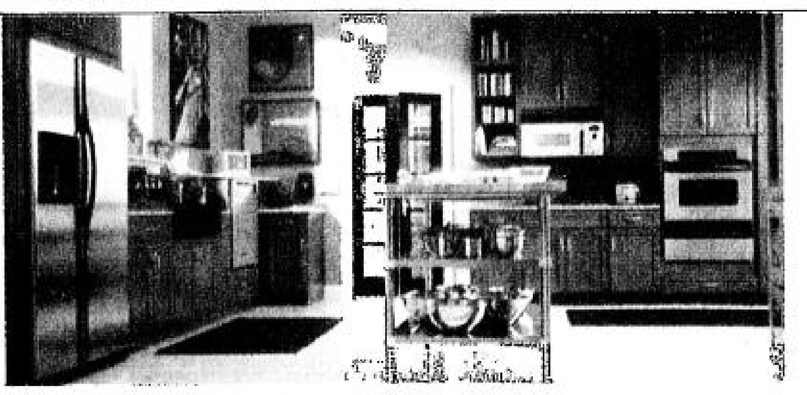


The Philips Matchline 34" Real Flat TV means big enjoyment.

When you've got a television this big, who can resist watching? Its Real Flat Picture Tube displays perfect images from any angle — great when the whole gang is in the house. You want to talk about design? How about a cutting-edge shape that fits right in the 22nd century? So if you want home entertainment that's big in every way, get a Philips Matchline Real Flat TV. We've got to admit, things are getting better...

Visit www.asia.philips.com

GE 'designer refrigeration'



DESIGN-CONSCIOUS consumers are increasingly looking for ways to express their fashion sense. In the kitchen, GE offers consumers a brand new way to make a style statement: the GE Side-by-Side Stainless Steel Refrigerator. The soft, gently rounded doors and smooth, high-gloss finish of the GE Side-by-Side Stainless Refrigerators give consumers a fresh, new, fashionable look, while maintaining excellent quality and performance.

GE entered the refrigeration fashion arena with the introduction of CustomStyle, a special design that gives the appearance of a built-in without the expense of customer construction. CustomStyle refrigerators also offer consumers the option of adding custom door panels, another effective way to express personal design choices. Stainless steel conveys a look of utmost polish and sophistication. The rich luster of this finish will give your kitchen an immaculate appearance, and its lasting beauty will appeal to your discriminating tastes.

Eye-catching "curve appeal" is only the beginning of the GE "designer refrigeration" story. Inside the new side-by-side refrigerators—the contour shape, as well as CustomStyle—consumers will find a totally fresh approach to interior design.

Everything inside looks brighter than before—because it is! Fresh food lighting is 25 percent brighter for improved visibility. It's brighter, but quieter too. Profile Performance has improved insulation materials for quieter operation. Each shelf makes versatile use of every inch of storage space. Drawers, shelves and corners are easy to reach and clean. The new Freshness Center has three clear storage drawers with individual temperature or humidity controls for maximum food freshness and quality. ClearLook bins give a see-through view of everything. And the bins are gallon-sized to handle big or small containers. No more lost mustard jars. The popular ShelfSaver is wider, with more room for odd-shaped items. Cans, cookie dough, eggs all fit neatly in this convenient sliding space. The freezer is storage-smart too, with slide-out baskets for easy access.

New GE Side-by-Side Stainless Steel refrigerators are as great on convenience as they are on looks. The LightTouch door dispenser delivers delicious water by Culligan. The convenience of filtered water through the dispenser eliminates the cost and hassle of buying bottled water at the store or scheduling home deliveries.

GE was named three years in a row by Fortune magazine as America's most admired company, and two years in a row as Reader's Digest Superbrand awardee. GE has been bringing good things to life for more than a century, and sells products under the Monogram, Profile Performance Series, Profile, and SmartWater brands.

GE Appliances' new Philippine distributor is CYA Industries, a freshly incorporated company bringing with it over 35 years of experience in the appliance industries.

Aside from its full line of refrigerators ranging from U.S.-made side-by-side models to upright freezers, GE Appliances also offers electric ranges, washing machines, dryers, air conditioners and microwave ovens. For more info on GE Appliances in the Philippines, please call 631-8282, 887-0075, (032) 344-6926 (Cebu), (088) 272-6301 (Cagayan de Oro), or (082) 222-1181 (Davao). GE appliances are currently available in leading appliance centers nationwide such as SM Appliances, Anson Appliances and Western Marketing.

Caption: GE Appliances' Built-in Style refrigerators combine smart styling with a full measure of convenience and performance.

ARISTON'S built-in cooktops, rangehood and oven have converted the erstwhile functional kitchen into the home's gallery.

Today's kitchen is your gallery

KITCHENS of yesteryears were simply square rooms where you could cook and eat meals. It simply consisted of the ho-hum gas stove, possibly an oven, and the dining place. This is no longer the case. Today's kitchen, where all cooking and backing is done, also serves as a place where family members and guests hang out and talk about each other's activities for the day while having refreshments. It has evolved into simply being a work area into a social area.

Indeed, the modern kitchen is now as much an entertainment area as the living room. More and more homeowners are turning to architects and interior designers for help in transforming their once simply functional kitchen into a designer kitchen.

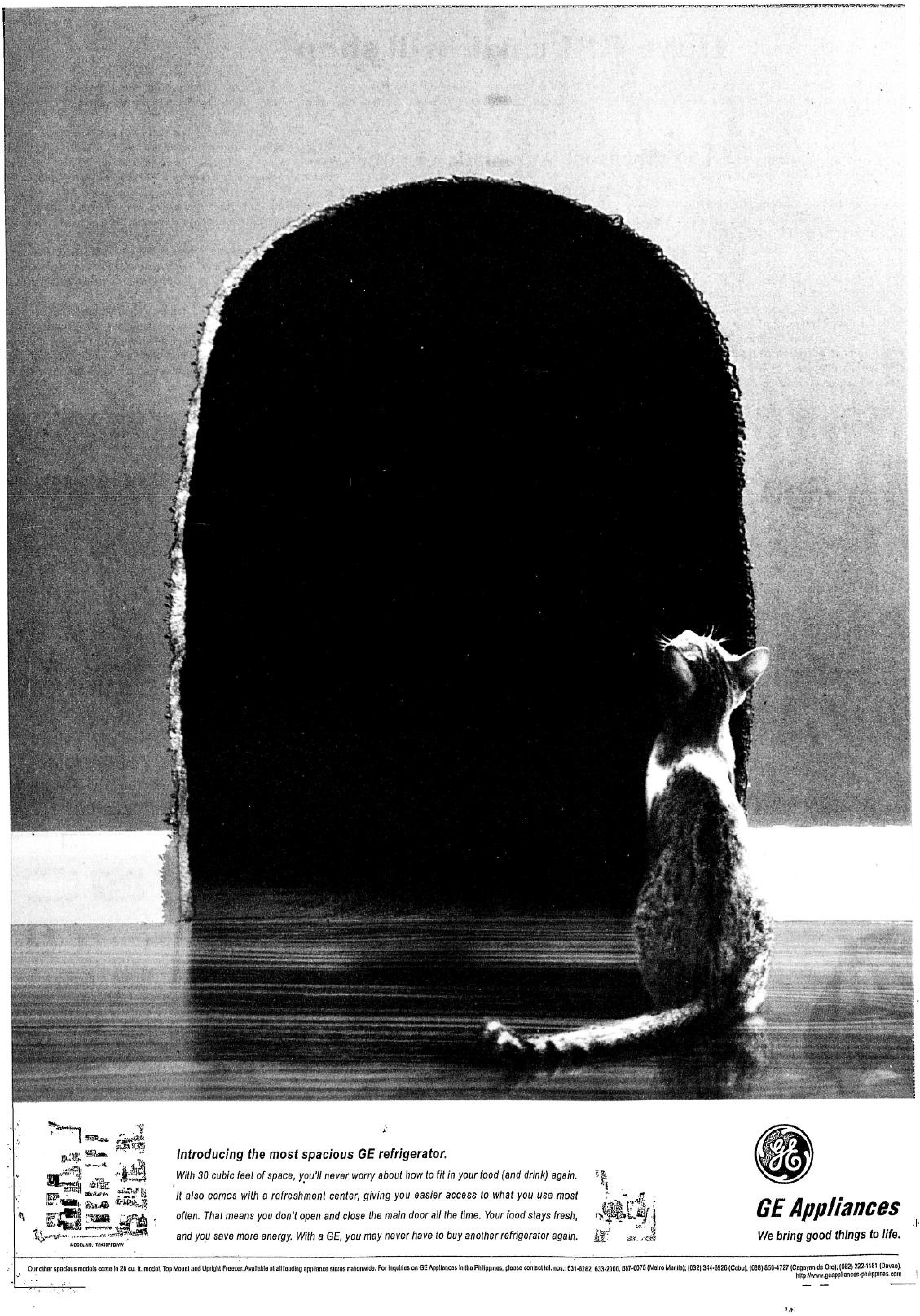
Built-in appliances are being incorporated into designs to allow more workspace and ease traffic flow. Not only are they space-saving, they are also attractive and easy to maintain. The cooktops, ovens, dishwashers and even washing machines fit neatly into the panels or cabinets giving the kitchen a clean, minimalist and modern look.

While built-in appliances are ideal for people whose houses are just in the construction stage, modern day freestanding cookers work best for those who wish to spruce up and update their existing kitchens. The latest freestanding cookers offer flexibility to the homeowner who wishes to upgrade his or her kitchen from a mere "gas stove area" into the gallery or even centerpiece of the house. Combine the cooker with the range hood and what you have is a kitchen set that not only cooks well but also looks (and smells) fresh.

Known for their keen aesthetic sense, the Italians have spearheaded the evolution of the cooker from being a mere functional kitchen tool into an aesthetic designer appliance. An increasing number of Filipinos are finding out for themselves that when it comes to designer kitchen appliance, Italians do it better.

In Italy, the leading kitchen appliance brand is Ariston. It has a complete line of cookers, hobs, range hoods, dishwashers, front-loading washing machines and dryers, and refrigerators, all designed for the upscale, discriminating and sophisticated homeowner. Many would be surprised to find out that the old established kitchen appliance brand in the Philippines is a virtual unknown in Italy.

Ariston is currently available in leading appliance centers nationwide such as SM Appliances, Anson Appliances and Western Marketing. The Ariston showroom may be reached through tel. no. 631-8282, 887-0075, (032) 344-6926 (Cebu), (088) 272-6301 (Cagayan de Oro), or (082) 222-1181 (Davao).



MODEL NO. TFK30PFDWW

Introducing the most spacious GE refrigerator.

With 30 cubic feet of space, you'll never worry about how to fit in your food (and drink) again. It also comes with a refreshment center, giving you easier access to what you use most often. That means you don't open and close the main door all the time. Your food stays fresh, and you save more energy. With a GE, you may never have to buy another refrigerator again.

GE Appliances

We bring good things to life.

Our other spacious models come in 28 cu. ft. model, Top Mount and Upright Freezer. Available at all leading appliance stores nationwide. For inquiries on GE Appliances in the Philippines, please contact tel. nos.: 631-8282, 633-2000, 887-0075 (Metro Manila); (032) 344-6926 (Cebu); (088) 858-4727 (Cagayan de Oro), (082) 222-1181 (Davao).
http://www.geappliances-philippines.com

Wow, pati pala Universe nako-kodakan!
GUYITO

Junior
INQUIRER

WHAT'S INSIDE:

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SATURDAY, JUNE 23, 2001 ✦ 12 PAGES ✦ VOLUME 5, NUMBER 36

WWW.INQ7.NET

Hey Universe! Say 'cheese'!

EY! IT'S NO CANDY-WRAPPER! This funny-looking thing is the $145-million Microwave Anistropy Probe that is expected to take pictures of the universe's remnant "Big Bang" light. It is set to launch from Cape Canaveral, USA on June 30.

Spacecraft aims to snap Big Bang "Baby Picture"

A SPACECRAFT that looks a bit like a foil-covered umbrella aims to take the "ultimate baby picture" of remnants of the theoretical Big Bang that gave birth to the universe, astronomers said.

The origin of the Big Bang theory can be credited to Edwin Hubble. Hubble made the observation that the universe is continuously expanding. He discovered that a galaxy's velocity is proportional to its distance. Galaxies that are twice as far from us move twice as fast. Another consequence is that the universe is expanding in every direction. This observation means that it has taken every galaxy the same amount of time to move from a common starting position to its current position. Just as the Big Bang provided for the foundation of the universe, Hubble's observations provided for the foundation of the Big Bang theory.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (Nasa) $145 million MAP craft—short for Microwave Anisotropy Probe—is set for launch from Cape Canaveral on June 30. The unmanned probe will swing past the Moon on its way to an orbit around a point one million miles from Earth in the direction away from the Sun.

From this vantage point, MAP will take note of the tiniest changes in temperature, down to one-millionth of a degree Fahrenheit, searching for what remains of the explosion that many astronomers believe started the universe some 14 billion years ago.

Baby pic

"We're going to launch a mission that will take the ultimate baby picture: an image of the infant universe taken in the fossil light that is still visible from the Big Bang," said Alan Bunner, science director of the Nasa study of the structure of the universe.

Scientists first discovered the microwave radiation from the Big Bang in 1965, but at that point, it appeared to be utterly uniform across the sky. In 1992, Nasa's Cosmic Background Explorer, or COBE, probe revealed subtle differences in temperature and patterns of some kind of structure in this background radiation.

Seeds of Planets and Galaxies

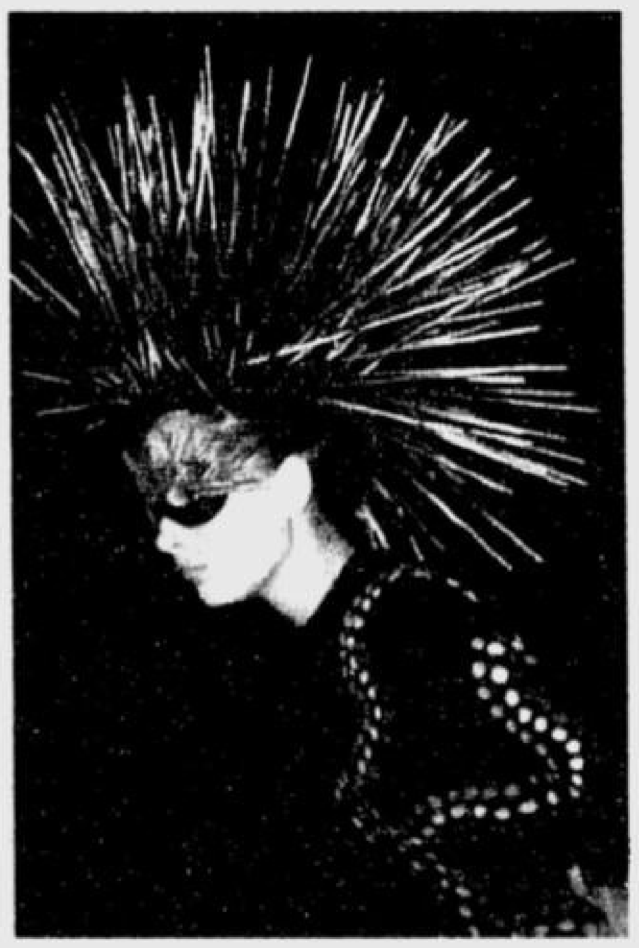
To measure such small changes and variations in temperature, MAP has to avoid

Hey/ p.3

WORLD SCOPE

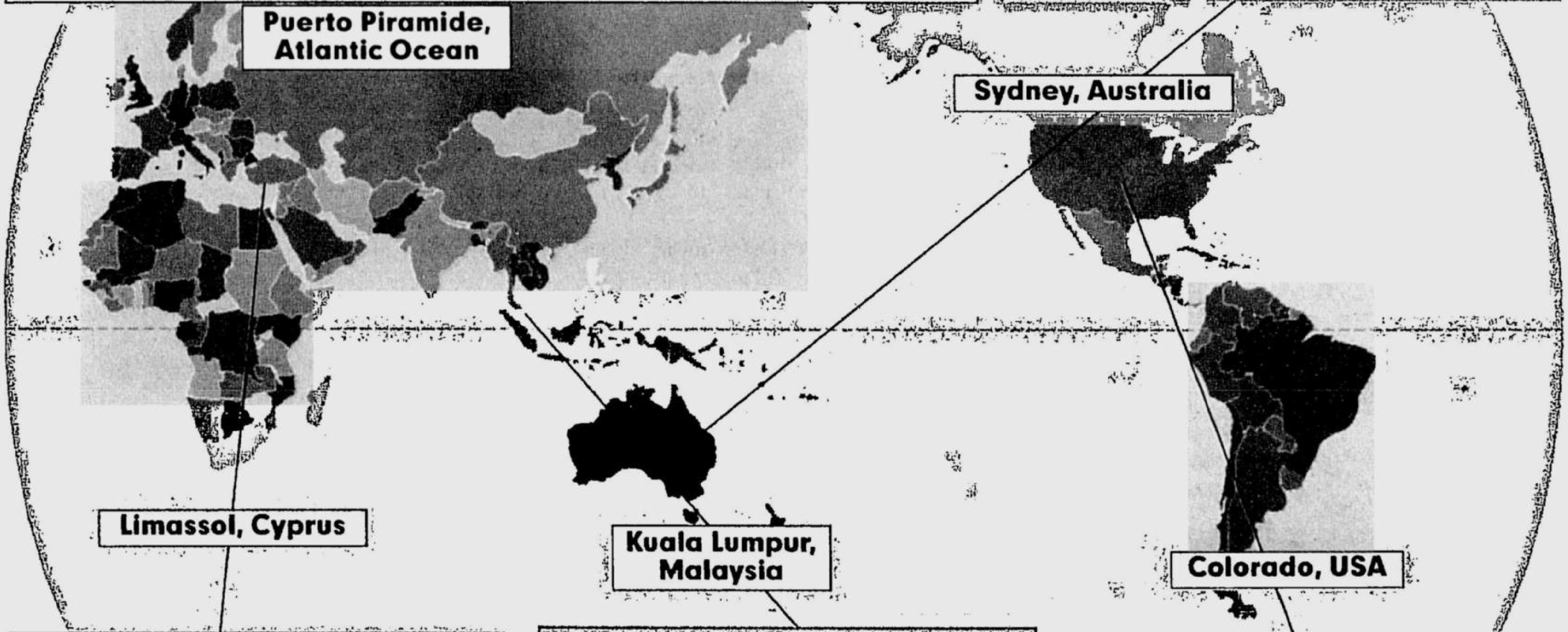
The Right Time

THE TAIL of a southern right whale emerges from the waters of the Atlantic Ocean near Puerto Piramide, some 1,600 kilometers south of Buenos Aires. The whales can be seen between June and December in Peninsula Valdes where they arrive every year from the Antarctic to mate and raise their calfs. *AP*



Bad Hair Day

NOT necessarily. This model is a hairdresser's proud entry to the Hairexpo 2001 in this city. It's been titled "Indian Mohawk Style Hairdo." Maybe it should have been titled "Today, I am a porcupine." Haha. *AP*

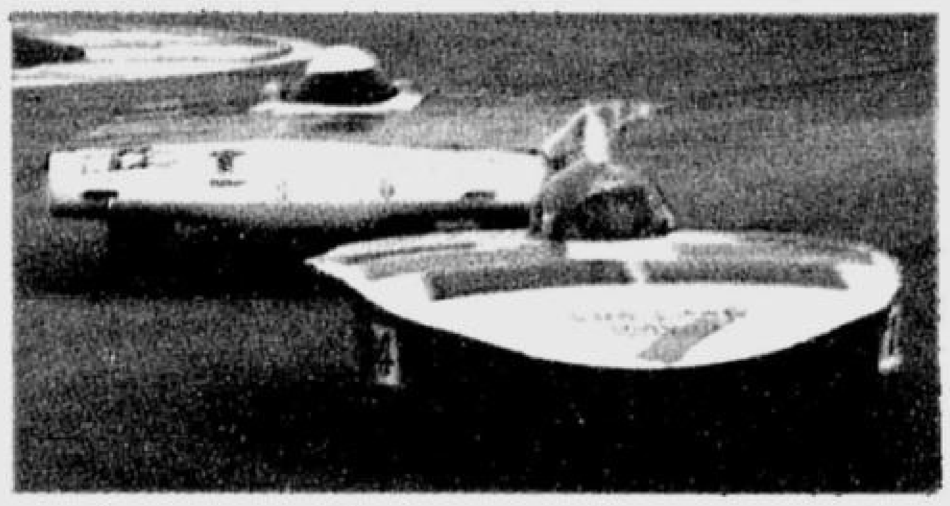


Biggest Kebab

SAMI Eid poses for a photograph in front the spit on which he is attempting to beat the record for the largest kebab in the world. Sami's chicken spit which measured over 2 meters high was made up of 1,500 chickens and was expected to feed over 15,000 people. *AP*

Solar-powered Race

JAPANESE Tetsuo Shimomura of Sun Lake team steers his solar car, chased by Shuji Yamada of Japan Tokai Shoyo High School team during the second leg of the first World Solar Car Championship. Fifteen teams from Japan, Malaysia and Taiwan complete over a total of 1,000-kilometers for 17 hours on Shah Alam streets, Sepang International Circuit racetracks and Putrajaya streets during the three-day race. *AP*



Blind Climber

ERIK Weihenmayer, the first blind climber who scaled Mt. Everest in late May holds his 11-month-old daughter Emma, as they sit with Weihenmayer's wife, Ellie, in the family's home. *AP*

Workshop

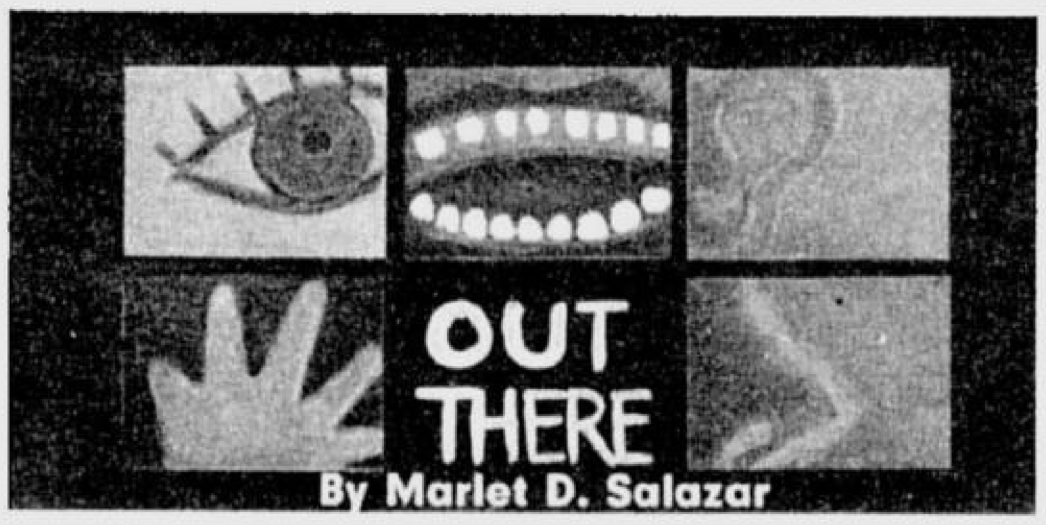
BE A STORYTELLER! Join a workshop by the Alitaptap Storytellers Club on June 30-July 1 at 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Museo Pambata. Preregistration is required. Call Des or Olive at 523-1797 to 98. Museo Pambata is located at Roxas Boulevard corner South Drive, Manila.

Books

BOOK SPIN-OFFS. Solve puzzles, learn the best disguises, learn how to put together a spy kit with handy secret agent manual "How to be a Spy," based on the movie "Spy Kids." Follow the adventures of young spies Carmen and Juni Cortez with "Spy Kids: The Official Movie Book" and "Spy Kids" the novel.

These books are available in all National Bookstore branches.

SPY kids
HOW TO BE A SPY
ACTIVITY BOOK
•PUZZLES
•MAZES
•WORD SEARCHES
•SPY KITS
•DISGUISES
•AND MORE!
Based on the major motion picture!



Got something for Out There?

Send us the info two weeks in advance. Our fax numbers are 897-4793 up to 94. Don't forget to include your contact numbers and addresses.

Museum Moments

TODAY AT AYALA MUSEUM. Listen to the exciting adventures of archeologist Dr. Joy Belmonte when she shares her stories in the field of Philippine archeology. Join a treasure hunt and win prizes in the preview of Ayala Museum's archeological collection. Registration starts at 9:30 a.m. For inquiries and registration call up Ms Christy Monastrial or Ms Ethel Villafranca at 812-1191 to 97 local 128 or 130. Ayala Museum's museum shop, exhibition galleries and Escuela sa Museo are open Tuesdays through Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

WATER CELEBRATION. Learn more about the water cycle through fun-filled activities prepared by friends from the Center of Environmental Awareness and Education. This is in celebration of the feast of St. John the Baptist. That's today, 10 a.m. at the Kalikasan Theme Room of Museo Pambata, Roxas Boulevard corner South Drive, Manila. For more info call up 523-1797 to 98.

ATTENTION, MUSEO PAMBATA CLUB MEMBERS! Check out what's in store for you at the museum, today at 2 p.m.

- Basic Art and Painting workshop—(for children ages 4 to 8), Craft Room
- Confidence-Building Workshop—(for children ages 9 to 13), Taga-Teatro Area

Call up Anna or Olive at 523-1797 to 98 to confirm your attendance.

IT'S ARAW NG MAYNILA! Tomorrow at 1-5 p.m. Museo Pambata celebrates Araw Ng Maynila by giving free entrance to all Manila residents (children and adults). Bring any valid ID with your address.

Stuff

LEARNING IS FUN. Preschoolers will enjoy listening to "Sing and Play with Numbers" cassette. It includes songs, rhymes and chants like "Skip to My Loo," "Alphabet Song," "London Bridge" and a lot more. "Sing and Play with Numbers" cassette are available in bookstores nationwide and distributed with a bonus pack of crayons. For inquiries call up 414-3401 and 413-5006.

Announcement

EXHIBIT. Check out the works of illustrator and Atomo creator Lyra Abueg Garcellano, Corinne Ching, Nona Garcia and Topel Lee in the exhibit "Sober Playthings" in the main gallery of the artist-run space Surrounded by Water which is located at 187-A Arle Square, the Pied Piper Place, Edsa, Mandaluyong City. The exhibit runs until June 30. For inquiries call 724-2027.

On TV

5 & UP. Tomorrow, "graduating" reporters Joshua Matic, Chiyomi Rances, Kai de Veyra and Oly Fernando get to face special challenges of their own. New reporters Nicay de Guzamn and Luigi Exconde, and the rest of the "5 and Up" troop send them off to do some pretty cool stuff to prove that they are worthy of graduating and sharing what they have learned on "5 & Up." Don't miss it tomorrow at 9:30 a.m. on GMA-7.

Hey Universe! Say 'cheese'!

(from page 1)

changing the temperature on its own said Elizabeth Citrin, the project's manager.

"Because the light that we are looking at is so faint the spacecraft must be very, very quiet, and by that I mean thermally and electrically quiet," Citrin said. "Even small temperature changes in the components or small power variations could contaminate the cosmic measurement."

To help keep things quiet, the spacecraft's solar array doubles as a parasol, with solar panels facing the Sun to generate power while the array's underside shades the scientific instrument and helps it cooled to an optimum temperature of minus 300 Fahrenheit, Citrin said.

If everything works as designed, the probe will reach its destination two months after launch, and transmit data for 18 months before any findings can be announced, the scientists said.

Light's the key

Charles Bennett, the project's principal investigator, said he expects findings that could change how people think about the universe.

Noting that MAP will look for tiny patterns in the microwave background, Bennett said, "These patterns result from tiny concentrations that were in the very early universe, that were the seeds that grew to become the stars and galaxies that we see today.

"The tiny patterns in the light hold the key for understanding the history, the content, the shape and the ultimate fate of our universe," Bennett said.

Astronomers have theorized what the first moments of the universe were like, and predicted specific scenarios for different theories. MAP's findings will capture the actual scenario, and this will be matched with the most likely theoretical version of what occurred just after the universe was born, Bennett said.

Reuters

WHAT is the BIG BANG THEORY?

This one is just one of the theories thought up by scientists to explain the origin of the universe. It goes a little something like this: Around 15 billion years ago a really major and tremendous explosion started the expansion of the universe. This explosion is known as the Big Bang. When the Big Bang happened all of the matter and energy of space was contained at one point. Then they were all blown or thrown outward. And if this theory is true, it also says that the universe—to this day—is continually expanding outward.

What existed before this event is completely unknown and is a matter of pure speculation.

The origin of the Big Bang theory can be credited to astronomer Edwin Hubble. Hubble made the observation that the universe is continuously expanding.

My Brainchild Experience

Franz Jonathan de la Fuente *of La Salle Greenhills tells of his experience as a young museum "resource person" and how he got the position*

READING from the Junior Inquirer one Saturday morning, I saw an announcement that said Museo Pambata was looking for kids to qualify for the BrainChild Search (kids are needed for their ideas because Museo Pambata is renovating its second floor exhibit galleries). It somehow tickled my curiosity. I wondered then what the BrainChild search was all about. My mommy encouraged me and told me to give it a try.

"Nothing to lose anyway," she said. I learned that there would be a written test and an interview. Would I pass?

The Exam Day

On that day, I was running late (believe it or not, I live in Cainta, Rizal, not a stone's throw away from Museo Pambata in Manila!). I had never been so nervous in my life.

When I entered the room when I was to take the test, many children were there already. I got a vacant seat in the last table as a woman handed me several sheets of paper and a pencil for the test.

She gave me the instructions briefly and left. My hands were trembling as I wrote my name and other personal information. I quietly prayed to God for guidance as I prepared to answer the questions..

I made it!

The questions were not too hard and not too easy either. I answered the easy questions first then the hard ones last. To my surprise, I found the test easy and finished it ahead of the other kids who arrived earlier. I bade good bye and went to see my mom who was outside.

I came back a few days later for the final interview. My mind went blank for answers. But I answered all the interviewers' questions and they seemed pleased.

One mid-morning, I got a call. I made it! I was asked to report the following Saturday to start with the workshop/brainstorming sessions. We met every Wednesday and Saturday in Museo Pambata for four weeks. What we did mostly was to tour a specific theme room in the museum and put our comments and ideas on paper.

On the "job"

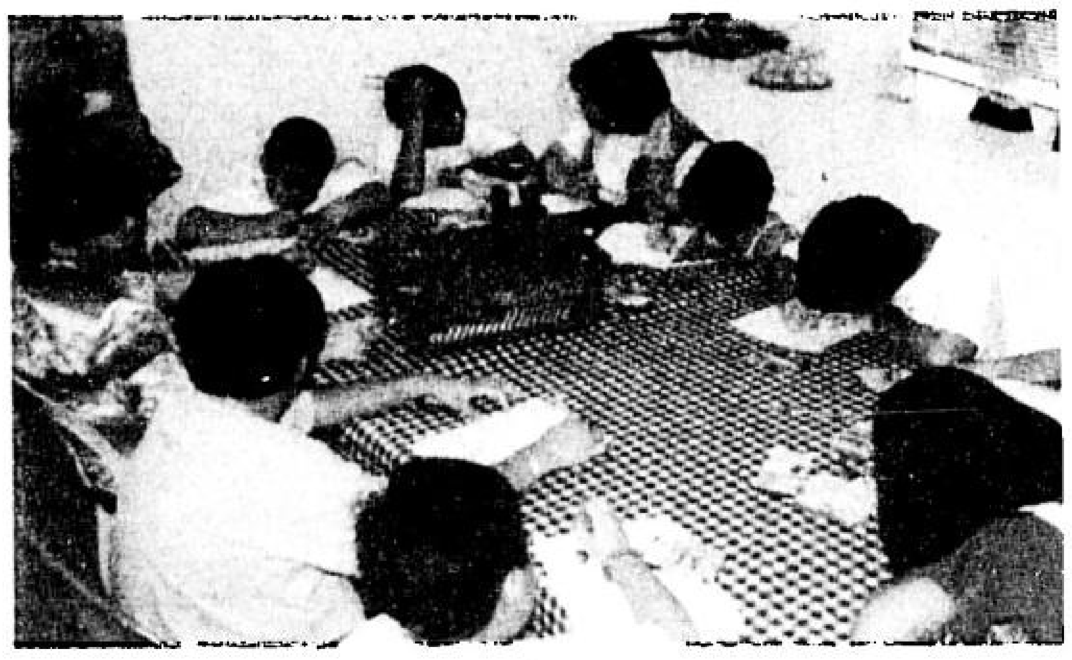
The objective was to find out what kids like me wanted to see in a kids' interactive museum. Sometimes we worked as a team and other times we worked individually. Either format of working, it was always a fun learning experience.

Those sessions of fun learning have just ended. However brief, they were very memorable. Those were the days when I learned a lot even though I wasn't in school. I not only got to contribute my ideas to a hands-on museum for children—I got to meet new friends too. Being a part of the BrainChild bunch, as the other kids and I would call ourselves, helped ease my boredom of the summer days.

I now think of the stressful schooldays to come, but remembering my one-of-a-kind BrainChild experience in the summer of 200 makes me happy.

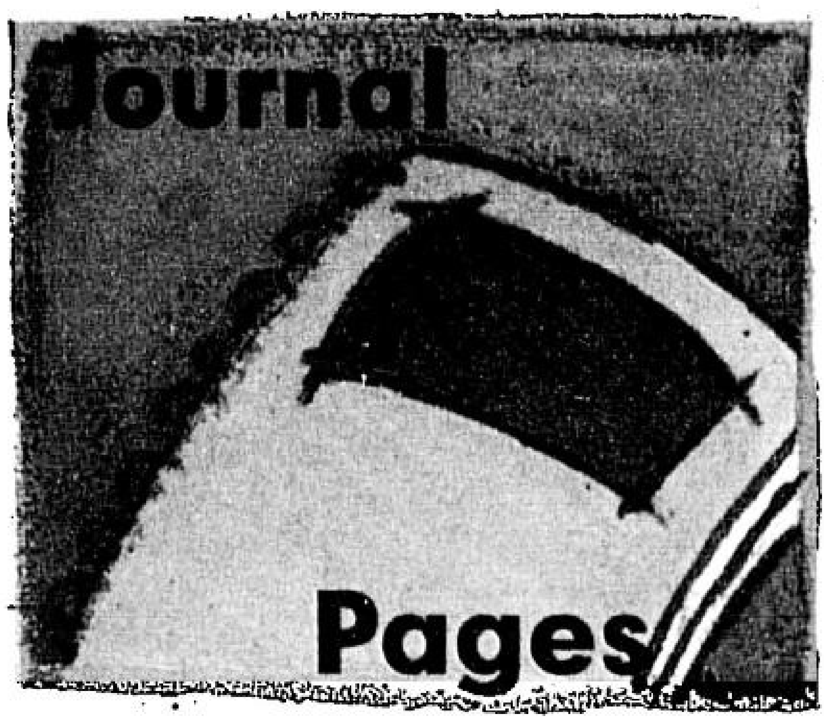
FRANZ at work in Museo Pambata.

FRANZ and other "Brain" kids check out an exhibit.



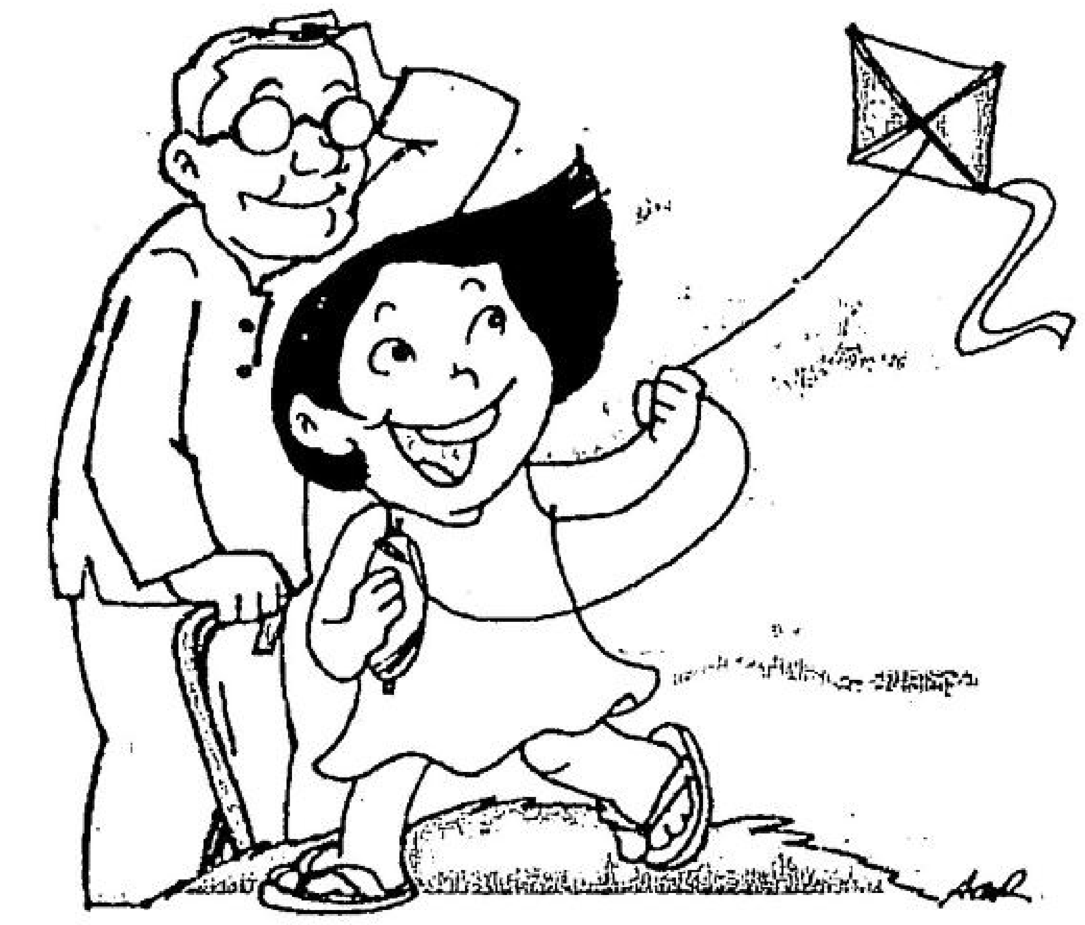
IT'S brain-power time!

IT'S a tough job, but kids can have fun at it too!



'Lolo' Selyo and the Kites

BY MARGAUX ORTIZ



WHEN I was about 8 or 9 years old, I had this strange fascination for kites. Big kites, small kites, red kites, blue kites, kites shaped like dragons—I didn't care, as long as they were kites. While other prim and proper little girls loved to play with their dolls and dainty teacups, I adored running through the meadows near our neighborhood, hair wild and free, with a spool of nylon in one hand and my enormous "fish" kite in another.

My happiest memories were spent with my childhood friends in these meadows. We whistled to get the attention of "Mother Wind" (as we affectionately called our "benefactor") and watched, with our mouths open in astonishment, as the soft breeze lifted our colorful creations into the sky like birds.

Sometimes, my *Lolo* Selyo would join us in our kite-flying expeditions. We cherished every moment with him. He was a kind man who adored children, especially those who lived and thrived on adventure (like us). And besides, he knew absolutely everything about kites.

Lolo Selyo would teach us how to fly our kites with ease and how to continue doing it flawlessly.

"Always position your kites against the wind, always against the wind," he used to tell us. "The wind may be the main reason why your kites fly, but it can also topple your kites to the ground. Learn to use the wind's strength to your advantage."

Whenever we were successful, he would praise us. "Look at your kites. The higher they soar, the more beautiful they become. They reach the peak of their majesty when they fulfill their purpose—to conquer the skies," he would say. My friends and I would proudly smile.

As I grew up and lost my once insatiable interest in kites, I looked back and pondered on *Lolo* Selyo's words. I realized that when he taught us how to fly our kites, he was not only talking about those fun flying lessons in the meadows. He was also teaching us about life. How we should use obstacles and problems to our advantage. How we should let our dreams soar. How we should conquer our weaknesses and be masters of our own destinies. *Lolo* Selyo taught us more than we ever learned from him, and I (and surely my friends too, wherever they are now) would forever be thankful for that.

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Write down your thoughts now and send them to JI. Who knows, you might just get published!

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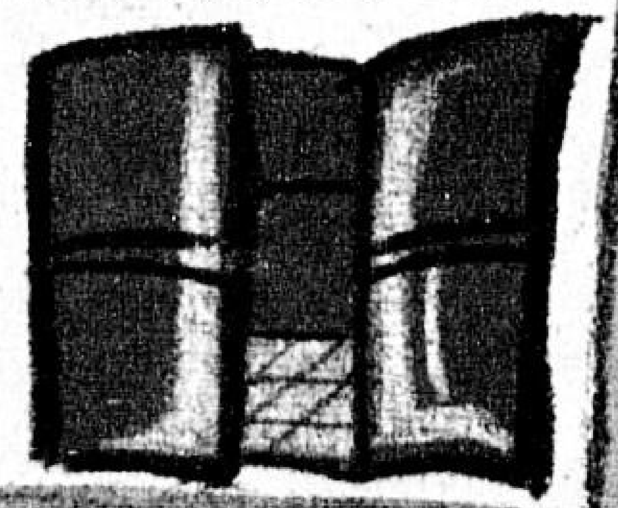

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Harry Movie

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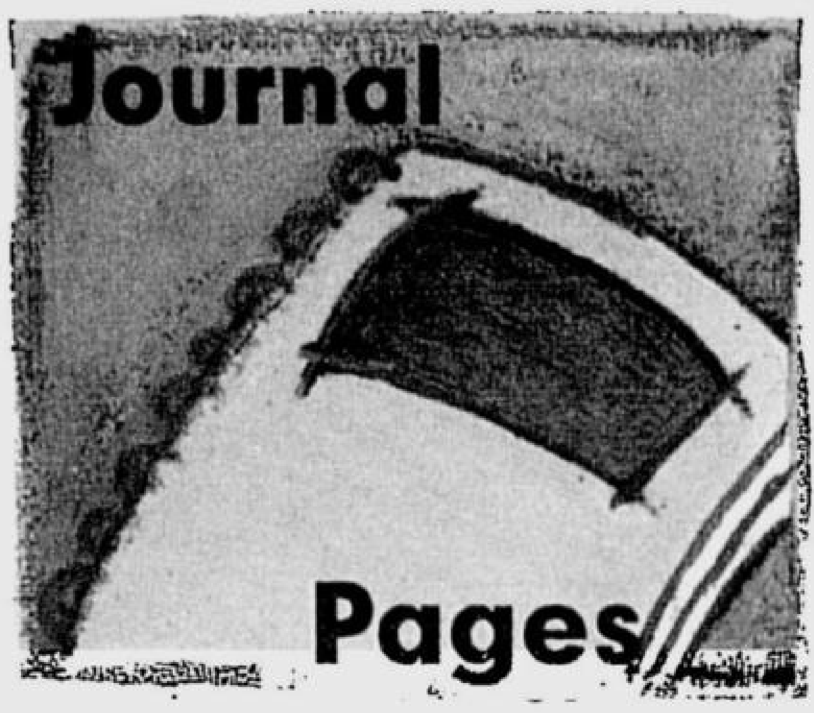

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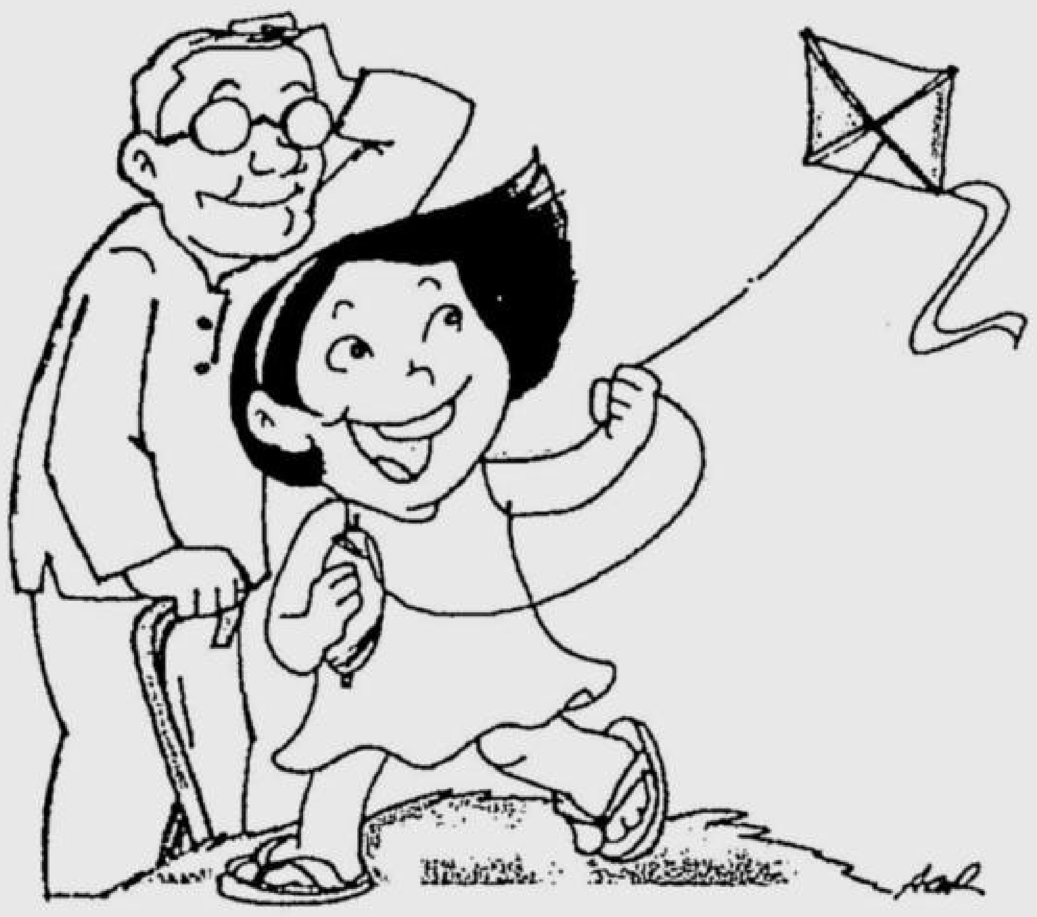

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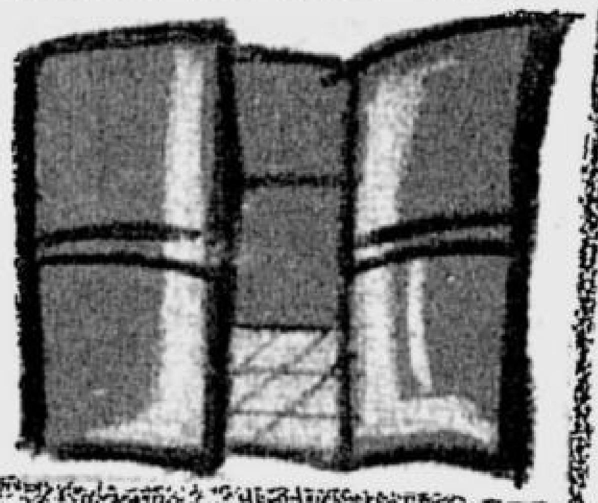

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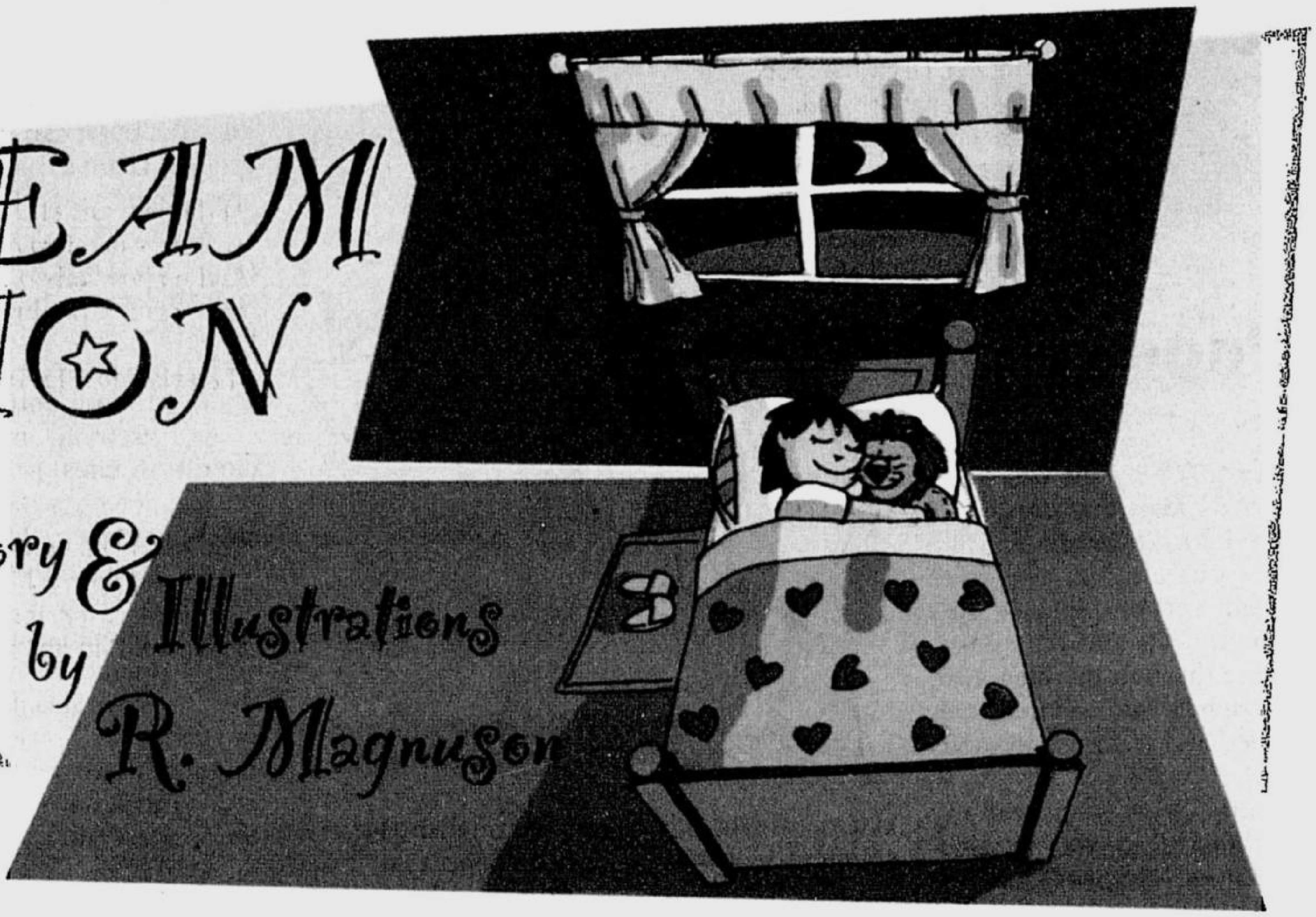
DREAM LION

Story & Illustrations by R. Magnuson



1

Did you know I have a Lion
who's mean and loves to fight?
He shows up in my dreams
so I cannot sleep at night.

When my daddy shuts the lights off
and my brother goes to bed,
I'm scared to touch my pillow
with my tired sleepy head.

Because the moment that I do
and my eyes begin to close,
I can feel the scary Lion
lick his tongue against my toes.

He will eat me up (as Lions will),
and this I know is true!
I'm afraid to move a single inch!
I don't know what to do!

I look to my small brother
but he is fast asleep,
dreaming that he is in candy land
with all the goodies he can eat!

2

Did you know I have a little girl
who I visit late at night?
She's cute and I protect her
with my fearsome Lion might!

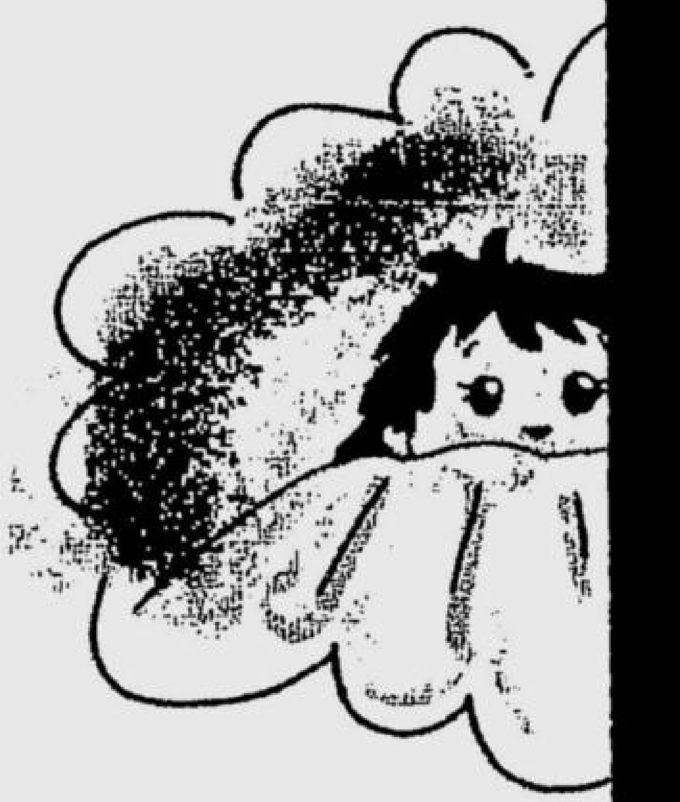
I kiss her toes at bedtime
so she sleeps all snug and warm,
so she snuggles under blankets-
secure from every harm.

But tonight I finda her trembling.
and I cannot figure why -
why my little girl is so afraid
that she should start to cry.

Did I miss a certain something?
Something scary that she sees?
I turn to check but cannot find
what that scary thing could be.

So I turn to
with a lick (
But my girl
and then lies

It suddenly
But can it r
That now it
that my girl



3

That night
bent over
He was ab
then eat m

But as I w
as my bod
I opened m
my Lion dis

r
By
D S

And as he did, I saw his face,
and he looked rather sad.
Perhaps my Lion was not what I thought.
Perhaps he was not bad,

My room felt rather cold then-
it was darker than before.
I couldn't see my brother!
I couldn't even hear his snore!

My heart began to quickly beat,
My hands began to quiver,
I heard a scary whispering
that made my body shiver!

iss her forehead
ns lions will).
creams in her pillow
s so very still.

becomes quite clear!
ally be?
dawns upon my heart
s afraid of me!

④

And that was when I heard her cry:
"Please someone!" she did yelp.
"It's dark and cold and I'm afraid!
Please anybody help!"

So I rushed back to her bed,
and I spread the curtains wide,
then moonlight started streaming in
from the gentle air outside.

⑤

And I saw him stand before me,
with a mane of royal red,
And he pointed to the whispering
that came from my brother's bed.

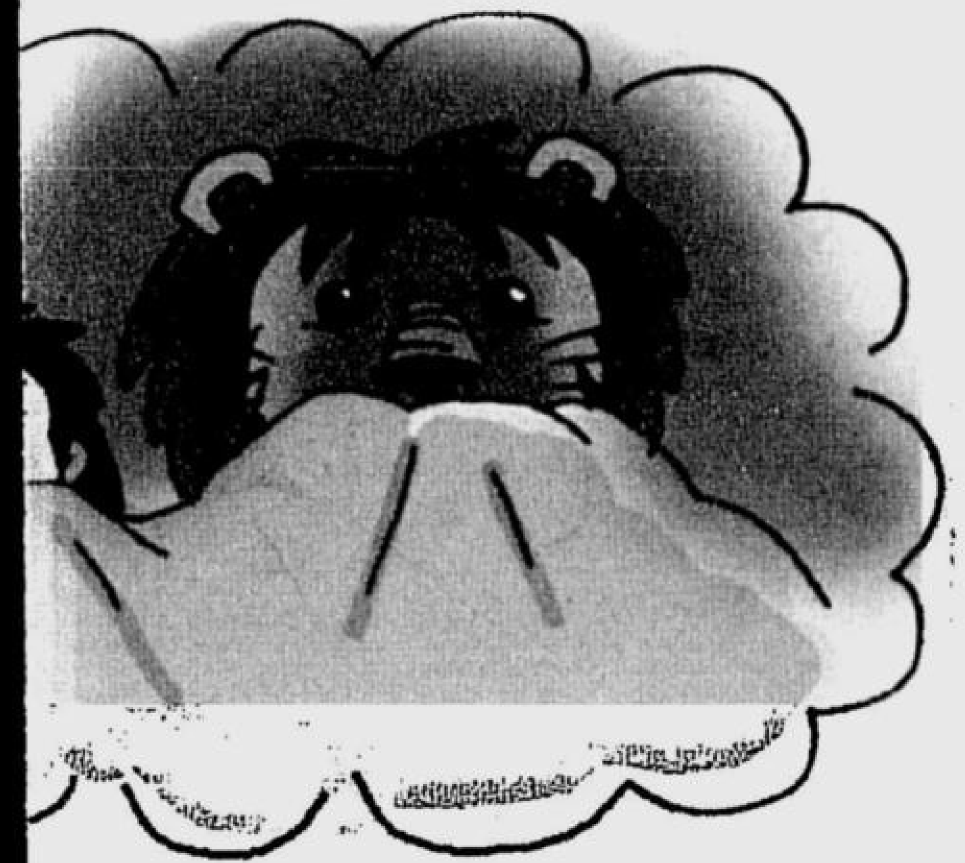
Then the Lion fluffed my pillow,
and he pulled my blanket tight,
he curled into a ball beside me,
then stayed alert throughout the night.

But when the sunshine came,
I was sad to see him go.
My Lion left me like a dream,
to where, I do not know.

⑥

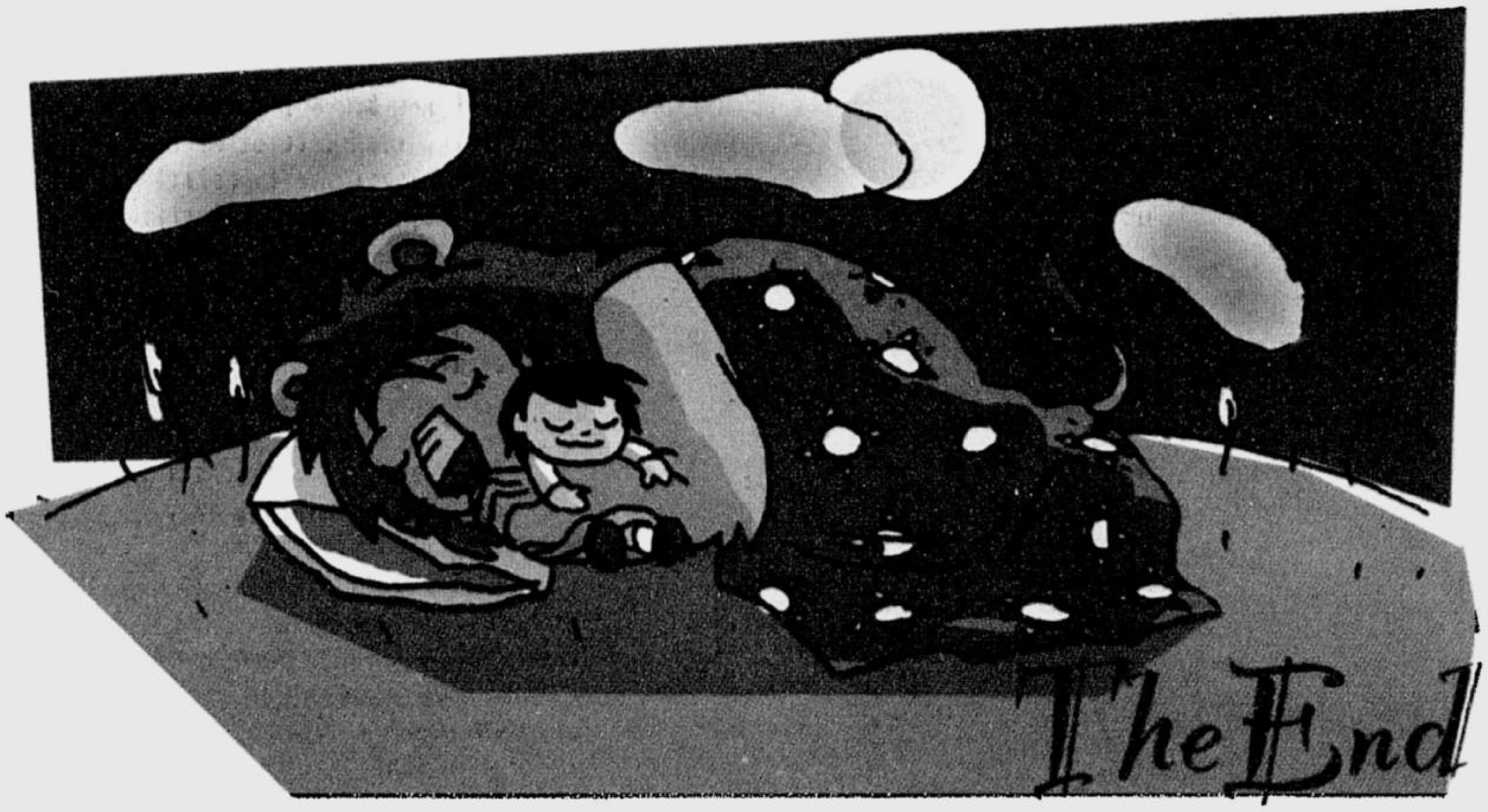
But I promised her I would return,
When the day falls dark and still.
And a lion keeps his promises,
(As lions always will.)

For now it□s time for me to wake-
to stretch out from my curl.
And tonight I'll dream of her again-
my sleepy little girl.



I saw my Lion
ne quite low.
ut to lick my face,
e head to toe.

ited for his tongue,
shook with fear,
y eyes and then I saw
appear!



Robert is the creator of "Shirley's Pets." He is Swedish-Filipino, an American citizen, but has lived in the Philippines all his life. His wife's name is Shirley and they have lots of pets.

Talkathon

Get ready for a million words per minute when young debater Pamela Cortez starts talking

BY CHRISTINE C. RIVERO

MEYA has many dreams. "I want to be a nun," she begins, "I don't really want to get married. I think it will be hard having children."

"Sometimes I want to be a lawyer or an author," she adds, "I want to write books on, particularly, fiction. Like Harry Potter, wizardry and everything. I want to write books for young adults and kids. I don't really want to write books for older people."

Making her voice deep, she announces, "Inspirational stories!" Laughing, she says, "I don't want to do books like that."

Eleven-year-old Pamela "Meya" Cortez also wants to be a detective or a spy. She says, "I've seen a lot of spy movies and I think what they do is really cool. All those gadgets! I want to be a detective too because I've read all these Nancy Drew stories and I really like finding out solutions to a problem. It needs a lot of thinking."

Kids'r'rific

Books, books and The Good Book

Meya likes reading many other books. "I also like books about war," she continues, "like the diaries of young children during the war, books about Nazis, the bombing of Pearl Harbor..."

To her, books don't always have to have a happy ending. Says Meya, "Life isn't perfect so I know you should also read books that have no happy endings."

In the chapel at Paref Woodrose School where Meya is a straight-A student, she also often reads the Bible. Her sister informs us that Meya is not only in charge of the daily readings during Mass in their chapel, but also trains other schoolmates to do the readings too.

"I help them get over their stage-fright or 'chapel fright,'" she explains, "I tell them to just pretend there's nobody there. . .and since they're in the chapel, they know God is there to give strength and confidence. They just have to do their best."

Not a Drool-Fest

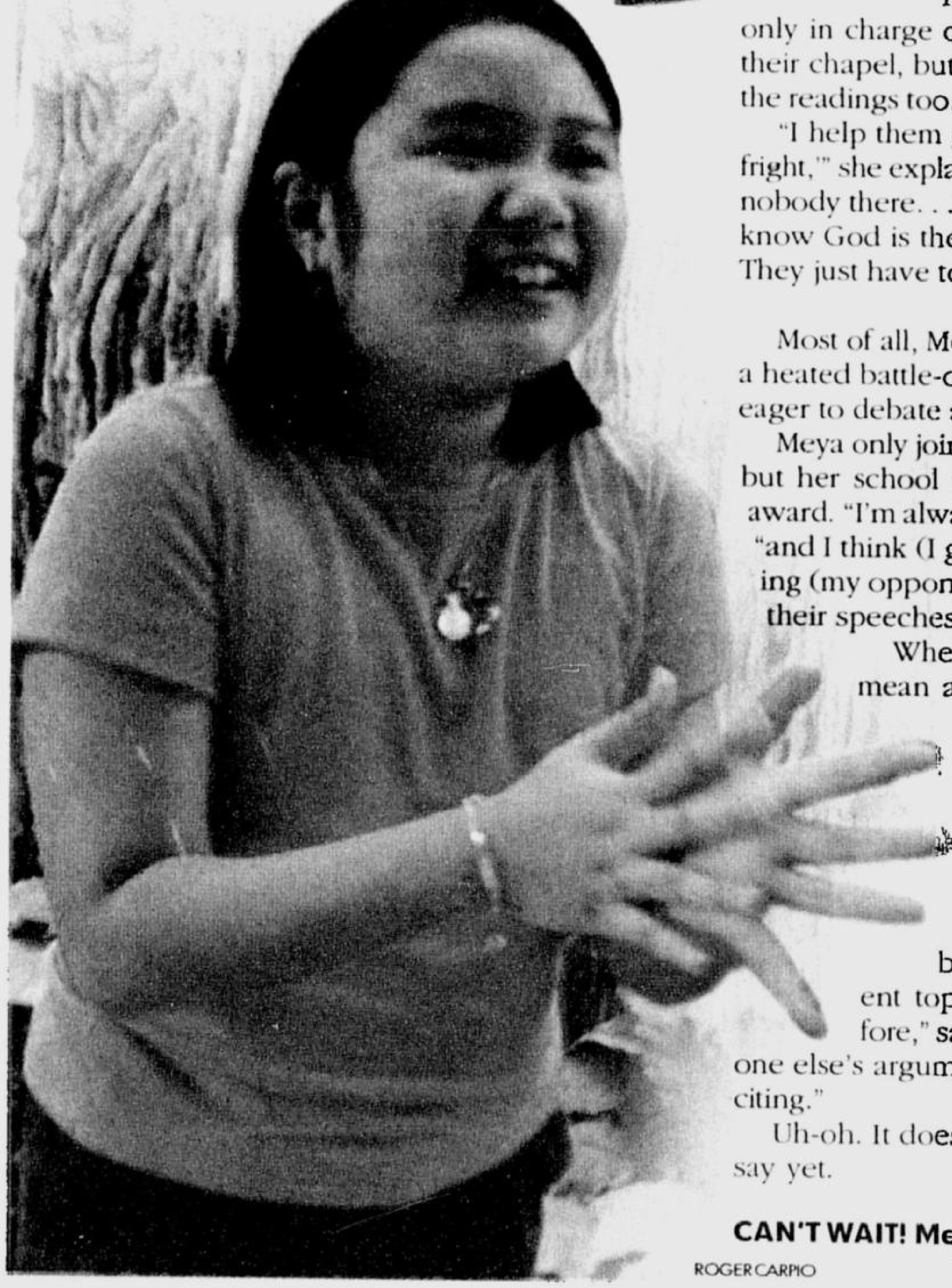
Most of all, Meya likes to talk a mile-long streak in a heated battle-of-the-wits debate. "I'm really, really eager to debate again!" she exclaims.

Meya only joined her school's debate club last year but her school already gave her the Best Speaker award. "I'm always ready with a speech," says Meya, "and I think (I got the award because) I was attacking (my opponents) with different questions about their speeches."

When Meya says "attack," she doesn't mean a violent tooth-and-claw drool-fest. "For me, debating is only a way of stating your opinion," she says, "It's not like rough fighting. (Debaters) are simply arguing over a point. I don't think of it as fighting over some silly thing."

"It's really fun because you will be able to ask questions about different topics you've never even known before," says Meya, "shooting holes into someone else's argument, that's what I think is really exciting."

Uh-oh. It doesn't look like Meya has had her last say yet.



CAN'T WAIT! Meya is raring to debate again.

ROGER CARPIO

R U 'RRIFIC?

'Rrific kids are smart
'Rrific kids are fun
Some aren't in the honors list
But get their homework done

Somehow the world's
a better place
I know this much is true
Hey 'Rrific kid!
We know you're there
We love you 'cause you're you!

If you think you're `Rriffic' or know someone who is, fill out the nomination form below and send it to:

Junior Inquirer
'KIDS'R'RRIFIC' Page
Phil. Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces cor.
Yague & Mascardo Sts.
1231 Makati City

Chosen nominees will be featured on this page and will get a free Junior Inquirer T-shirt!

Kids'r'rific

nomination form

I nominate: ______________________

Age: ________

I think she's/he's 'Rrific because:
(Here's a tip! Write a detailed description of a good deed, project or accomplishment by your nominee.)

She/he lives at

and studies at

Her/his contact number is:

Sender's Name:

Sender's Age & School: ________, ________________

Sender's Address:

Sender's Contact No.

I scream, I scream for

Mommy's Ice Cream!!!

The Ongkiko kids can't have enough of Tita Dida's ice cream

TALK about being a really cool mom, cool as in ice-cream-cool. Five years ago, 38-year-old mom, Ma. Vivien Ongkiko, or *Tita* Dida, together with some pals put up their very own ice cream business. Their label—Fruits in Ice Cream.

"It was named that way because, abroad, very few ice cream flavors have fruits in it," says *Tita* Dida, "It made us different from all the other ice cream brands."

At first, they only sold their ice cream in the United States and in Japan but friends who tasted their ice cream encouraged them to sell Fruits in Ice Cream—or F.I.C.—here too. "F.I.C can also stand for Filipino Ice Cream!" *Tita* Dida says, beaming.

F.I.C., Tita Dida adds, is also creamier than other local ice creams because it has more butterfat and milk solids. "Our ice cream is also very clean because we cannot export it to countries like Japan if it doesn't have zero microbial content," she says.

All in all, F.I.C. has 14 flavors including the bestsellers Strawberry, Cappuccino, Vanilla, and Tsokolate. A big hit with her sons, 7-year-old Juro and chubby 4-year-old Toma, is F.I.C.'s Green Tea Ice Cream.

Um, Green Tea?

"Oh, it's very good!" *Tita* Dida says, smiling.

Nine-year-old daughter, Mara, nods.

Mara is the family food-critic. "She has a very adult taste," says *Tita* Dida. Mara not only gets to comment on flavors which are still being developed, but she also gets to suggest other flavors. "Like fudge ripple with blueberry," Mara adds sagely. F.I.C. doesn't have that flavor yet, but *Tita* Dida says they'll give it some thought.

At home, *Tita* Dida says she and the kids love "horsing around," and one thing she really likes about her job is that "it allows me to spend time with the kids."

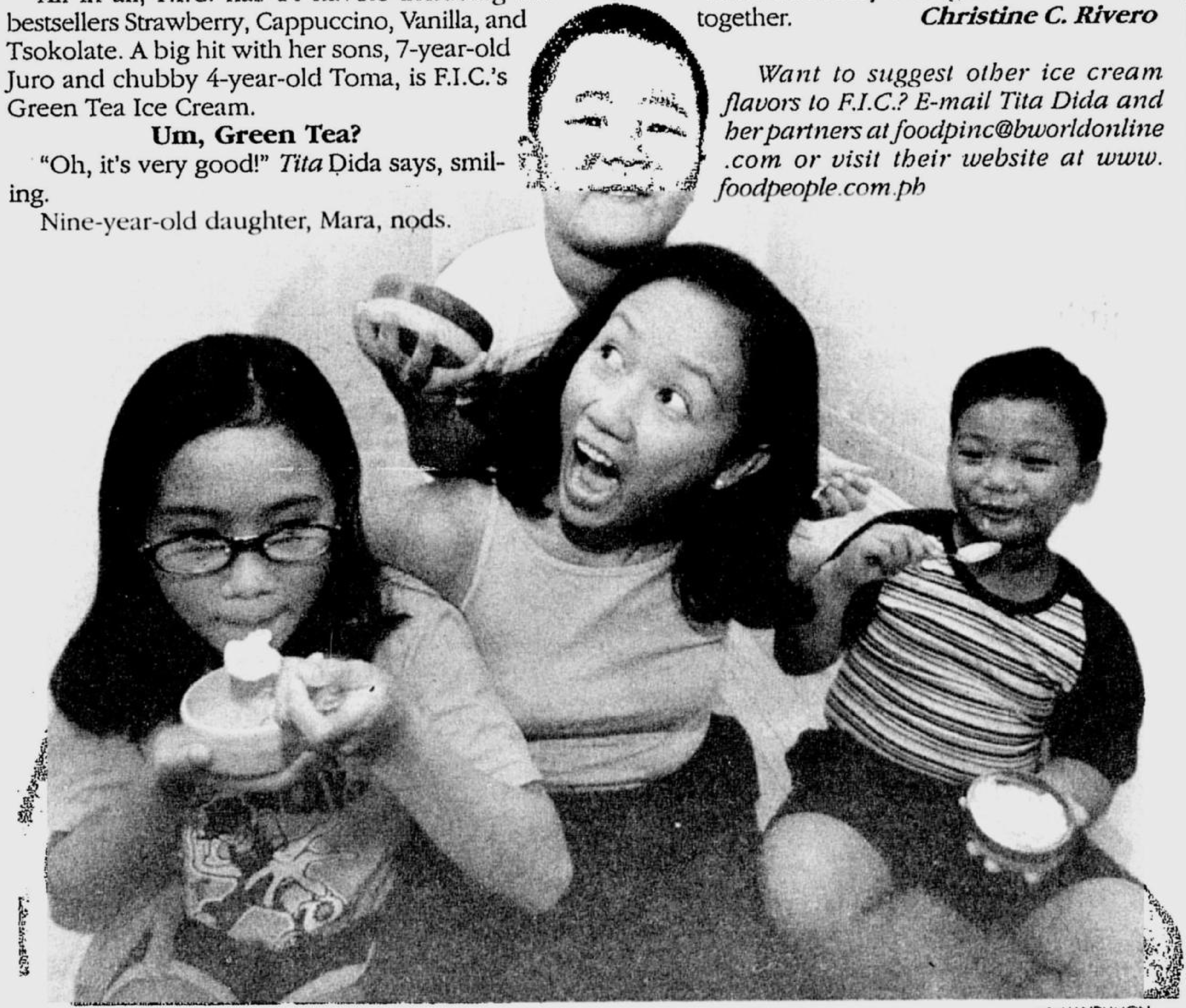
Says *Tita* Dida, "I go to the office at least twice a week but most of the time I work at home. (That way, I'm able to) supervise their studies."

When she was still at her old job, *Tita* Dida had to go to the office every day and she says she only got to see her kids every morning. Now that she has F.I.C., she says, "After school, (the kids) can pick me up at the office and we go home together."

Sometimes they even get to eat ice cream together.

Christine C. Rivero

Want to suggest other ice cream flavors to F.I.C.? E-mail Tita Dida and her partners at foodpinc@bworldonline.com or visit their website at www.foodpeople.com.ph



VALHANDUMON

OH NO! Tita Dida has her hands full controlling her kids' ice cream craze.

Do you know a grown-up who

- is fun to be with
- has an exciting job
- keeps an amazing hobby
- is all of the above???

If you know a grown-up whom all kids will love, give him or her the stamp:

A.K.A. COOL

Just fill out the nomination form below and tell us why your fave grown-up is the absolute coolest. If your nominee is chosen, ***YOU'LL*** *get a free JI T-shirt! Now that's really cool.*

A.K.A. COOL
is an 'adult known as cool'
They're the folks
in our own family
Or the people
we meet in school.

I nominate
____

He/She is ____ years old and is my
________________.

Here are five super solid reasons why I think you should write about him/her:

1)________________;
2)________________;
3)________________;
4)________________;
and
5)________________.

My nominee lives at________________
____

Give him/her a call at________
________________ or send him/her an e-mail at________________,

By the way, I'm________________
________________:

I'm ______ years old.

My address is
________________.

You may call me at
________________.

¿ThinkathoN?

By Bong Barrameda

Are You a True Pinoy?

1. **What do the three stars on the flag mean?**
   A. Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity
   B. Rizal, Bonifacio, and Aguinaldo
   C. Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao

2. **What are the three branches of government?**
   X. Executive, legislative, and judicial
   Y. National, regional, and local
   Z. Presidential, departmental, and bureaucratic

3. **What are the first and last words of "Panatang Makabayan"?**
   A. "Ako" and "isip"
   B. "Ang" and "salita"
   C. "Iniibig" and "gawa"

4. **Who becomes president of the Philippines if the president and the vice president should die?**
   X. Chief Justice
   Y. Speaker of the House
   Z. Senate President

5. **Why is the Philippines a republic?**
   A. The Constitution was democratically ratified.
   B. It consists of more than 42,000 barangays.
   C. Supreme power resides in the people who are entitled to vote.

6. **After Tagalog and Cebuano, what is the most widely spoken Philippine dialect?**
   X. Ilocano
   Y. Ilonggo
   Z. Kapampangan

7. **"Lupang Hinirang" has how many lines?**
   A. 20 B.22 C.24

8. **The present Constitution consists of how many Articles?**
   X. 15 Y. 18 Z. 21

9. **Which of these are Filipino citizens?**
   A. Those whose fathers or mothers are citizens of the Philippines.
   B. Those born before January 17, 1973, of Filipino mothers, who elect Philippine citizenship upon reaching the age of majority.
   C. Those who are naturalized in accordance with law.
   D. All of the above.

10. **What, approximately, is the land area of the Philippines in square kilometers?**
    X. 300,000
    Y. 500,000
    Z. 1 million

11. **What is the last plant mentioned in "Bahay Kubo"?**
    A. *patani*
    B. *linga*
    C. *kalabasa*

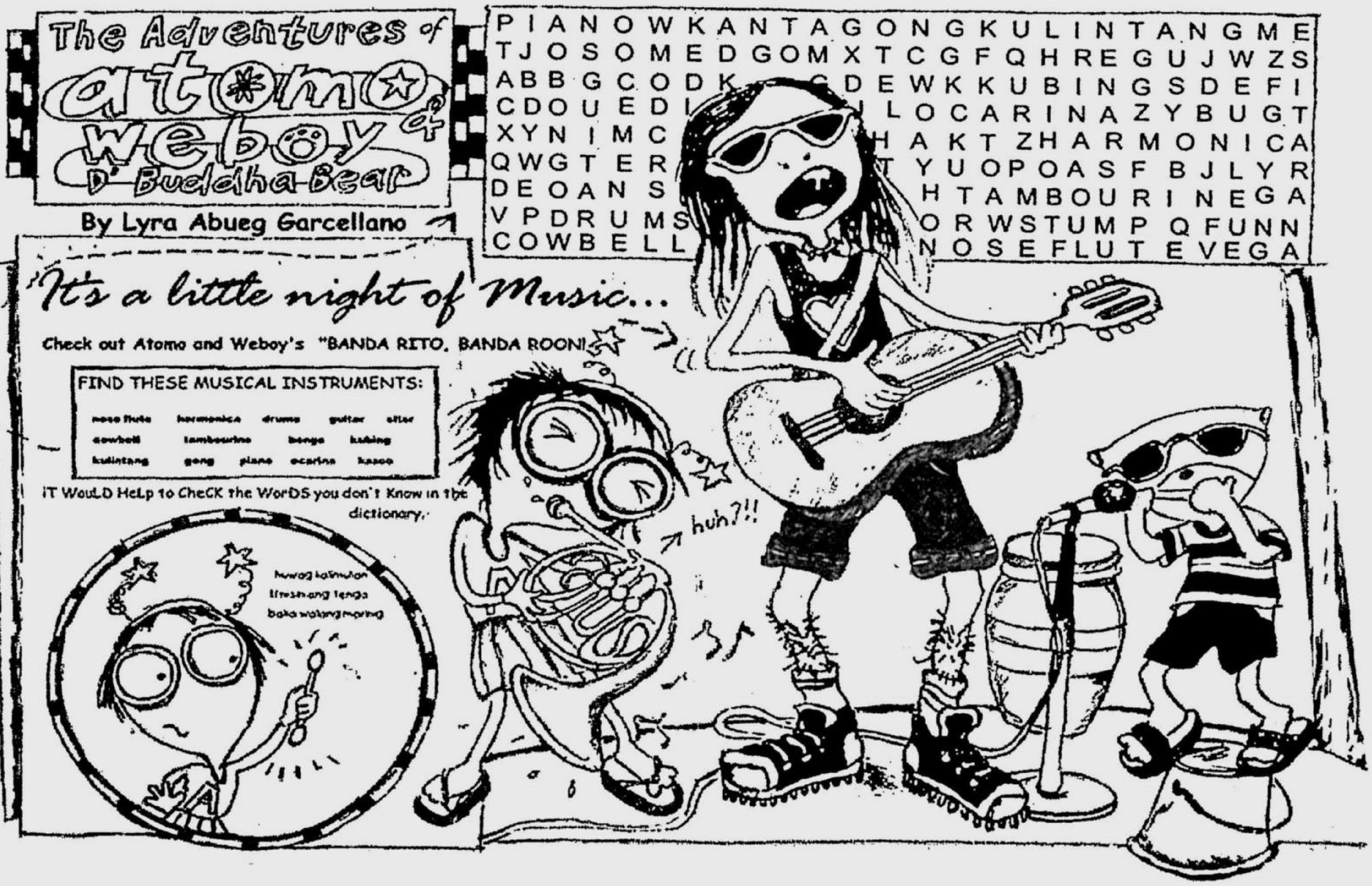
12. **What animal in on the Seal of the President of the Philippines?**
    X. eagle
    Y. sea lion
    Z. carabao

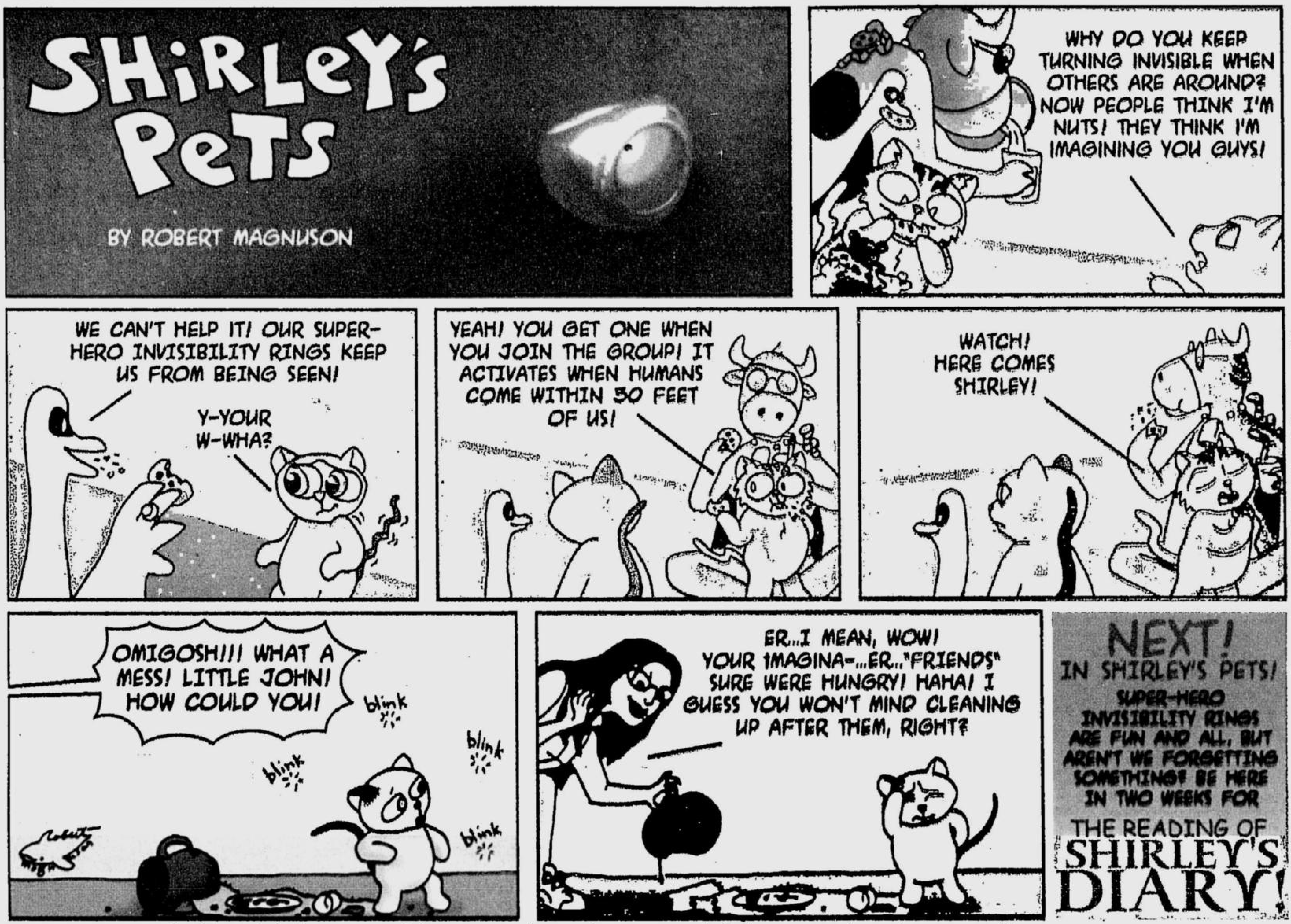
Answers:

1. C
2. X
3. C
4. Z
5. C
6. X
7. B
8. Y
9. D
10. X
11. B
12. Y

Ratings:

Super Pinoy	Excellent	Good
11-12	9-10	6-8


The Adventures of atomo & weboy & D' Buddha Bear
By Lyra Abueg Garcellano
It's a little night of Music...
Check out Atomo and Weboy's "BANDA RITO, BANDA ROON!
FIND THESE MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS:
nose flute harmonica drums guitar sitar
cowbell tambourine bongo kubing
kulintang gong piano ocarina kazoo
IT WouLD HeLp to CheCK the WorDS you don't Know in the dictionary.
P I A N O W K A N T A G O N G K U L I N T A N G M E
T J O S O M E D G O M X T C G F Q H R E G U J W Z S
A B B G C O D K C D E W K K U B I N G S D E F I
C D O U E D I L O C A R I N A Z Y B U G T
X Y N I M C H A K T Z H A R M O N I C A
Q W G T E R T Y U O P O A S F B J L Y R
D E O A N S H T A M B O U R I N E G A
V P D R U M S O R W S T U M P Q F U N N
C O W B E L L N O S E F L U T E V E G A
huh?!!
Huwag kalimutan linisin ang tenga baka walang marinig


SHIRLEY'S PETS
BY ROBERT MAGNUSON
WHY DO YOU KEEP TURNING INVISIBLE WHEN OTHERS ARE AROUND? NOW PEOPLE THINK I'M NUTS! THEY THINK I'M IMAGINING YOU GUYS!
WE CAN'T HELP IT! OUR SUPER-HERO INVISIBILITY RINGS KEEP US FROM BEING SEEN!
Y-YOUR W-WHA?
YEAH! YOU GET ONE WHEN YOU JOIN THE GROUP! IT ACTIVATES WHEN HUMANS COME WITHIN 30 FEET OF US!
WATCH! HERE COMES SHIRLEY!
OMIGOSH!!! WHAT A MESS! LITTLE JOHN! HOW COULD YOU!
blink
blink
blink
blink
ER...I MEAN, WOW! YOUR IMAGINA-...ER..."FRIENDS" SURE WERE HUNGRY! HAHA! I GUESS YOU WON'T MIND CLEANING UP AFTER THEM, RIGHT?
NEXT! IN SHIRLEY'S PETS!
SUPER-HERO INVISIBILITY RINGS ARE FUN AND ALL, BUT AREN'T WE FORGETTING SOMETHING? BE HERE IN TWO WEEKS FOR
THE READING OF SHIRLEY'S DIARY!

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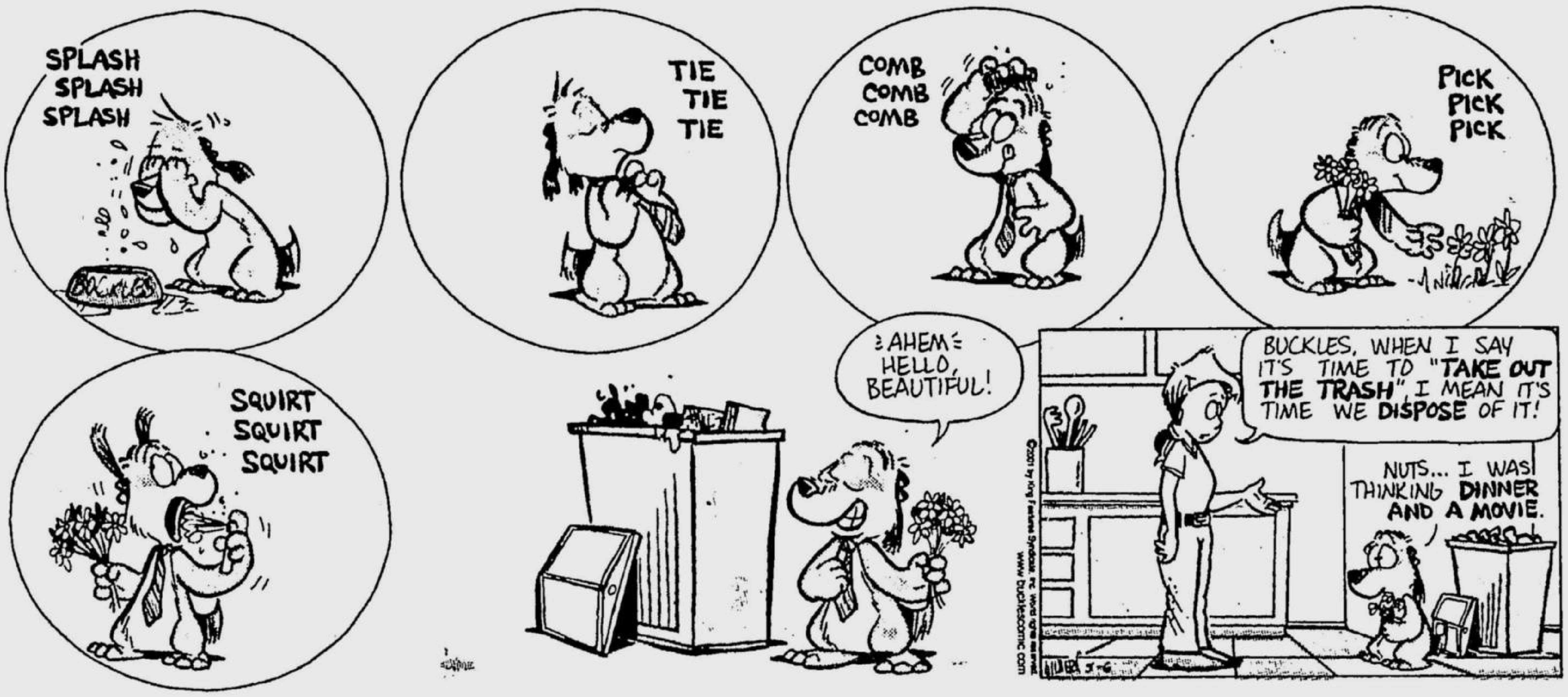
Visit Shirley and her pets at www.shirleyspets.cheesedip.com

BUCKLES

BY DAVID GILBERT


SPLASH SPLASH SPLASH
BUCKLES
TIE TIE TIE
COMB COMB COMB
PICK PICK PICK
SQUIRT SQUIRT SQUIRT
AHEM HELLO, BEAUTIFUL!
BUCKLES, WHEN I SAY IT'S TIME TO "TAKE OUT THE TRASH" I MEAN IT'S TIME WE DISPOSE OF IT!
NUTS... I WAS THINKING DINNER AND A MOVIE.
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www.bucklescomic.com

POKéMON
TRADING CARD GAME

THE POKéMON TRAINERS SHOWDOWN

A Mid-Year Tournament on June 24, 2001. 10:00 AM to 5:00PM
MegaTrade Hall 3, 5th Level, Bldg. B

SM MEGAMALL

What's at stake?
An iMac Computer,
Canon Printer and Scanner
Worth P100,000.00
Plus a lot more of very exciting prizes!!!

Your chance of joining other Pokémon-craze activities...

Center Stage Activity
King of the Hill
Create Your own Pokémon TCG
Pokémon League and Demo Area
Pokémon Wall Maze
Pokémon Character Face Painting
Pokémon Interactive Zone
And Other fun activities

Nestlé Chocolait
Apple
LIZ HANDS
QUICKWEB
Canon
LG Electronics

NEWS FLASH!!!

THE FOLLOWING students are JUNIOR INQUIRER'S new school correspondents! Please come to the Inquirer office on Aug. 4, Saturday at 2 p.m. for an orientation. Call 897-8808 local 340 for confirmation of your attendance on June 25-28 starting at 3 p.m. Congratulations and see you then!—***The Editor***

- **Anna Elvira S. Arcellana**, 12, Miriam College Grade School
- **Andrew Cie**, 10, Brent International School
- **Ma. Emille S. dela Cruz**, 12, UP Integrated School
- **Catherine E. Dolendo**, 11, Woodrose School
- **Alexis Marquez Dy**, 11, Immaculate Conception Academy
- **Stephanie C. Ferrer**, 11, St. Joseph's College
- **Kim Guzman**, 10, Poveda Learning Center
- **Joan Camille P. Ilagan**, 12, Veritas Parochial School
- **Ma. Monica Trinidad Cuyegkeng Lualhati**, 10, St. Benedict College
- **Michael Julian V. Manangu**, 10, Colegio San Agustin
- **Joji Klarisse L. Mendoza**, 10, UP Integrated School